

Crown Prince visits army units

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday made an inspection tour of army units of the 12th Royal Mechanized Division. Prince Hassan was briefed by senior officers on the duties and training programmes of the troops and he later watched the launching of "an aerial cable station" which provides information to various army units. He also met with the troops and made a brief speech. Prince Hassan was accompanied on the tour by a number of senior army officers.

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Attas sends message to King

AMMAN (Petra) — South Yemeni President Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas has sent a message to His Majesty King Hussein dealing with the situation in South Yemen following the recent bloody events in that country. The message was carried by South Yemen's Minister of Justice Ahmad Salam who arrived here Wednesday evening. He was greeted upon arrival by Justice Minister, Riad Al Shaka'a and a number of other officials.

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King delivers historic address to nation:

We are unable to continue coordination with the PLO leadership until such time as their word becomes their bond, characterised by commitment, credibility and constancy • Principles and tenets of Feb. 11 accord will continue to embody foundations governing our relations • Things got to a point where the PLO, legitimate rights and territory became one • PLO missed opportunity to represent Palestinians in international conference • We opened up avenues that had been considered closed to Arab and Palestinian brethren • Jordan rejected U.S. suggestion for separate settlement • It is imperative to turn matter over to Palestinian fora in occupied territories and diaspora as well as Arabs • We remain committed to steadfastness of brothers under occupation

Jordan Times Staff Writer

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Wednesday made a historic and comprehensive speech outlining and reviewing Jordan's stand on the Palestinian problem and the Kingdom's repeated efforts to arrive at a negotiated settlement to the Palestinian problem and announced that Jordan was terminating joint political moves with the leadership of the PLO towards a negotiated peace with Israel.

Addressing the nation in a speech lasting nearly three hours, broadcast on television and radio, the King said: "We are unable to coordinate politically with the PLO leadership until such time as their word becomes their bond, characterised by commitment, credibility and constancy."

"However, the King said, Jordan remained committed to the 'principles and tenets' of the Feb. 11, 1985, agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The accord, the King said, will continue to 'embody the foundations governing relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples with regard to equality of rights and obligations facing our joint destiny.'"

Kingdom undertook in the Arab as well as international scenes was after close consultations with the PLO in conformity with the Feb. 11 accord.

As recent as Jan. 29, the King said, he rejected an American proposal to proceed with peace talks with Israel alongside non-PLO Palestinians. "Our unwavering position was: No separate settlement," the King said.

The total collapse of the joint Jordan-PLO effort came when PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, in talks with the King last month, maintained his refusal to accept 242 and 338 and also turned down a compromise American formula, the King said. "Hinging on this agreement, of course, was an immediate opening of an American-Palestinian dialogue on the basis of which we would have continued our efforts for convening an international peace conference, to which the PLO would be invited to participate as a representative of the Palestinian people," the King said.

Looking back at the one year that passed since the Feb. 11 accord, and the breakthrough manifested in the American and Israeli

readiness to attend an international conference, the King said: "We have gone through a gruelling year of intensive effort and faced a host of obstacles, in many instances exceeding the limits of our endurance. But we succeeded in achieving what had been felt to be impossible."

Pointing out that the Feb. 11 accord was the only practical mechanism offered to implement the 1982 Fez Arab summit resolution, the King expressed regret over the collapse of the effort and said he was "pained by impediments when we were so close to the finishing line."

Elaborating on the course that the peace efforts took in the wake of the Feb. 11 accord, the King referred to a process that Jordan and the PLO had agreed on to arrive at peace talks. The King said the process envisaged a step-by-step procedure involving an initial American dialogue with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in which the Palestinian side will be represented by personalities chosen by the PLO. In the next stage, the PLO was to have declared its acceptance of 242 and 338 following which the

U.S. would recognise the PLO and hold a meeting with the organisation on the 'issues of a peaceful settlement and the normalisation of relations between them.' The final stage, according to the agreed procedure, was an international conference.

Accordingly, the King said, the PLO proposed names as Palestinian delegates to the initial meeting with the U.S. and Jordan relayed the names to Washington. After lengthy talks over who was acceptable to the U.S. and who was not, the U.S. relayed its readiness for such a meeting but raised doubts over whether the PLO was ready to fulfil its part of the bargain — acceptance of 242 and 338, the King said.

In a meeting held in Amman on Aug. 15, 1985, Mr. Arafat reaffirmed his acceptance of "all steps and arrangements, agreed upon between us, including the PLO's readiness to accept" the two resolutions, the King said. Jordan relayed the PLO position to the U.S. and was awaiting the American answer when, in September 1985, Washington said it could not go ahead with the proposed meeting, and the process

was stalled until the King visited the U.S. later that month.

During talks with American officials that followed, the King said, the U.S. agreed that the U.N. Secretary-General issue invitations to an international conference under U.N. auspices and with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council. It was also agreed that Resolutions 242 and 338 were to form the basis of the conference and the U.S. insisted on the PLO making public its acceptance of the two resolutions. The King said Jordan, reassured by the Aug. 15 meeting with Mr. Arafat, agreed to the understanding. The arrangement was explained to the PLO upon his return to Amman, the King said. The PLO leadership met subsequently in Baghdad but acceptance of the resolutions was not forthcoming. At this point, the King said, Jordan had also offered to keep the PLO acceptance of 242 and 338 confidential, limited

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The official translated text of the King's speech appears on pages 5, 6 and 7



Iraq steps up air attacks on Iranian positions, supply lines

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said on Wednesday its warplanes were pounding Iranian positions holding parts of the Fao Peninsula in the southern front and hammering Iranian supply lines and equipment dumps in a bid to dislodge the Iranian troops from the peninsula.

Iraq jets also hit an Iranian naval base in the northern Gulf and oil installations at Ganaveh, opposite Kharg Island on Iran's Gulf coast, Iraqi military communications said.

Tehran Radio said Iranian troops were pushing further towards an Iraqi naval base at Umm Qasr on the Kuwait border.

Iraq claims its westward thrust from the disputed Iraqi oil port of Fao at the mouth of the Shatt Al Arab waterway has cut Iraq off from the sea and bottled up its navy at Umm Qasr.

But Iraq on Wednesday denied

the claim, saying it was in full control of the northern Gulf. Hamid Lafta, a naval commander at Umm Qasr, told Baghdad Radio his forces were blocking Iran's seaborne supply lines to the Fao Peninsula.

Iraqi commanders said they were making only slow progress in heavy fighting, but said the Iranians were suffering huge losses. "The fighting has been so fierce that we have had to treat over the corpses of Iranian soldiers," the army newspaper Al Qadisiya quoted one commander in the south as saying.

An Iraqi commander in Basra, Iraq's second city some 40 kilometres north of the battlefield, told reporters meanwhile Iran was massing huge numbers of troops for a new offensive through the Majnoon Islands north of the city. Iraq says it has recaptured 90 per cent of the man-made islands,

constructed to exploit rich oil reserves under the Huweizh marshes.

Iraqi aircraft were in action at several Gulf war sectors on Wednesday, including the Iranian oil complex at Ganaveh, after a lull in air activity through bad weather. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said they hit Iranian supply routes, troop positions and equipment dumps with rockets and bombs, concentrating on the Fao Peninsula.

Naval gunners shot down an Iranian F-5 freedom fighter plane in the area on Wednesday and an Iraqi warplane downed another Iranian aircraft used for directing communications, INA said.

Baghdad Radio said that during their numerous sorties the Iraqi aircraft hit Iranian troop concentrations, bridges and other vital installations. These included a naval command centre on the

island of Dara, in the Khor Mousa bay 40 kilometres east of the Shatt Al Arab estuary, and the oil pumping station at Ganaveh, the radio said.

Other targets included army camps at Nafkha and Jaldan in the central sector of the border front.

All the Iraqi aircraft returned safely, the radio added.

Iraq's Third Army Corps Commander told foreign reporters at his headquarters east of Basra that Iran had massed huge numbers of troops for a new offensive planned through the southern marshes.

Major-General Maher Abed Al Rashid, whose men launched an attack on Majnoon Islands on Friday, added they had freed 90 per cent of the man-made oil rich islands, including the last oil well.

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Murphy: No new word on 242

DOHA (Agencies) — The United States has so far received no word of new proposals for Palestinian acceptance of United Nations resolutions on the Middle East, a senior U.S. official said.

Answering questions from the Qatari press in a television link from Washington Tuesday night, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy said:

"We have received no such formulas and, frankly speaking, the vague comments made by various leaderships and representatives of the PLO in our eyes appear to be formulas designed to evade the challenge put to the (Palestine Liberation) Organisation by King Hussein."

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said four days ago he had put forward three formulas to Washington for accepting U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338.

He gave no details of the proposals, which he said were discussed with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo.

The PLO leader arrived in Baghdad Tuesday night following his trip to Egypt. The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported his arrival, but said nothing about the purpose of his visit.

In his televised question and answer session with the Qatari press, Mr. Murphy said the peace process was in "a lull" as the various parties pause "for a bit to think where to go next, how to move."

Nevertheless, Mr. Murphy said, "The desire to move ahead, the need to move ahead is recognised as urgent." He said it is difficult to expect a dramatic breakthrough in such a complex situation where positions of each of the parties are so passionately held.

"We will continue our efforts," Mr. Murphy said, "but the ball is in the region, in the fullest sense of the word. We will play our part

Pitched battles rage in Lebanon as Israeli troops expand search

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Heavy fighting continued between Israeli troops and Lebanese resistance fighters as Israel stepped up its search for two captured Israeli soldiers in South Lebanon on Wednesday and a deadline set by the captors for the death of one of the captives ticked away.

In Tyre, U.N. spokesman Timour Goksel said two Lebanese were killed and two wounded in house-to-house searches by Israeli troops sweeping across South Lebanon for the two captive soldiers.

The casualties occurred in the Muslim village of Haris in the zone policed by the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Goksel reported. The Haris sector is manned by an Irish army battalion.

Goksel said villagers told UNIFIL officials they were shot when commandos ambushed Israeli troops, who "responded with tank fire."

The spokesman said Israeli officers reported the shootout was between commandos and militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA).

The Islamic Resistance Front on Tuesday set a deadline of 1900 GMT Wednesday for an Israeli withdrawal from the south, saying they would otherwise kill one of the prisoners.

The captives, identified as Yossi Fink and Rahamin Alsheikh, both aged 20, were taken by the front in an ambush on Monday.

Their seizure inside an Israeli-declared "border security" strip triggered a drive by thousands of Israeli troops on Lebanese villages outside the frontier zone.

Israel's northern commander Ori Orr said his men would continue their hunt despite the front's ultimatum.

In the southern port city of Sidon, Lebanese security sources told Reuters Israeli forces had expanded their search across a 20

kilometre front, surrounding villages with armoured vehicles before rounding up people for questioning.

Justice Minister Nabih Berri told reporters in Beirut he had been told by his Amal militiamen

(Continued on page 4)

Israeli captive reported killed in Lebanon

LONDON (R) — Radical Islamic rebels Wednesday night said they had executed one of two Israeli soldiers held captive since Monday, Beirut Radio reported. The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said a rebel spokesman had reported the execution in a telephone call to the Beirut office of the Abu Dhabi newspaper Al Itihad. The rebels had threatened to kill both Israeli soldiers unless Israel called off its search for the two men in South Lebanon.

3 Spaniards released in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Three Spanish embassy personnel kidnapped in west Beirut Jan. 17 were freed unharmed by their captors at Lebanese Justice Minister Nabih Berri's office on Wednesday.

Reporters called to a hastily arranged news conference saw the three men brought over to Mr. Berri's office by senior security officials of his Shi'ite Amal militia. The freed hostages were Pedro Sanchez, the embassy security officer, and two Cuban-born Christian brothers, Assad and Gaspar Abdo. Both carry Spanish diplomatic passports.

All three appeared to be unharmed after their 33-day ordeal. Spain's ambassador, Pedro Manuel de Aristegui, was at Mr. Berri's office when the three hostages were brought in.

Pressure mounts on Marcos as Aquino resumes campaign

MANILA (Agencies) — President Ferdinand Marcos came under fresh pressure on Wednesday as Corason Aquino, his rival for the Philippine presidency, resumed his campaign to oust him, saying he won the Feb. 7 election.

Mrs. Aquino, who has called for a boycott of banks, newspapers and a brewery managed by pro-Marcos men, took her fight to claim the presidency to the provinces.

She travelled in a motorcade to Angeles city, 80 kilometres north of Manila, as several countries expressed concern at the conduct of the election and two recalled their ambassadors for consultations.

Mr. Marcos, 68, accused by the opposition of winning by fraud and violence, was searching for messages of congratulation from friendly governments but apparently found only one.

The presidential palace gave

prominence to the new Soviet ambassador to Manila, Vadim Shabalov, who presented his credentials on Wednesday and, according to a statement, "congratulated the president for his re-election."

Spain, which ruled the Philippines for 350 years before ceding the country to the United States in 1898, and West Germany recalled their ambassadors for consultations.

The British and Australian embassies, and the Dutch on behalf of the European Community, issued expressions of concern at reports of election fraud and violence.

The United States, the closest ally of the Marcos government, has not sent any message of congratulations as President Reagan's special envoy Philip Habib assesses the situation in Manila.

Mr. Marcos said Wednesday he will use his powers "to the limit" to prevent disturbances.

Habre seen in strong position to crush rebels

ABIDJAN (R) — France's swift response to Libya's latest challenge in Chad, combined with Hissene Habre's strengthened political and military position, may encourage the Chadian leader to try to reconquer the rebel-held north of the country, Chadians and Western diplomats here say.

The French government is sending a deterrent force, including warplanes, to Chad following the flare-up in the 2-year-old civil war and a bombing raid against N'djamena airport, in an apparently scaled-down repeat of the 1983 "Operation Manta" (See page 2).

France then deployed some 3,500 men to contain a major Libyan-backed rebel offensive aimed at ousting Mr. Habre and putting former President Goukouni Oueddei back in power. But whereas "Manta" probably

saved Mr. Habre from collapse, the current French military effort follows a successful counter-attack by Chadian troops which pushed the rebels back to their positions behind the 16th parallel splitting the country into two.

"We did it alone, with no air cover from the French," a visiting Chadian official in Abidjan told Reuters.

The official, who declined to be identified, said as a result Chadian troops' morale was at its highest and Mr. Habre could be tempted to follow up his successful counter-attack with an all-out offensive in the north.

Faya-Largeau, a large oasis some 900 kilometres north of the capital of N'djamena, has been the rebels' main stronghold since they captured the northern half of the country in the summer of 1983 with military support, including air cover, from Libya.

France sends more combat jets to Chad

PARIS (R) — France has reinforced its air power in Chad following a Libyan bombing raid on the runway at N'Djamena airport on Monday, defence sources said Wednesday.

The sources said six Mirage F-1 fighters and four Jaguar strike aircraft were now at the airport on the outskirts of the Chadian capital.

The Mirages are designed for high-level reconnaissance and interception, and the Jaguars for low-level attack missions.

About 750 French military personnel were at N'Djamena to operate and maintain the aircraft and Crotae ground-to-air missiles and to guard the air base, the sources said.

French officials said they would await Libya's next move in the crisis before considering further action.

Unwilling to become more deeply embroiled by sending in ground combat troops, France has said it is keen to find a diplomatic solution to end the 20-year-old civil war.

Officials have ruled out another "Operation Manta" when France in 1983 sent 3,000 soldiers in to man a defensive line in support of Chadian President Hissene

ister Ahmad Chehatai was also in Algiers taking part in oil price talks, but French officials declined to say whether Mr. Dumas would meet him.

Mr. Dumas will also hold a meeting in Paris on Friday with Nigerian Foreign Minister Bolaji Akinyemi, who was expected to travel to Libya Wednesday in an effort to mediate in the conflict.

Nigeria, Chad's neighbour to the south, has called for an immediate ceasefire and a withdrawal of all foreign troops.

Diplomats in Paris, however, said France appeared cool towards the Nigerian initiative, which it had not requested, and preferred to handle its dialogue with Libya directly.

N'Djamena airport reopens

Chad's international airport in N'Djamena, closed to civil traffic after an air raid on Monday, reopened Wednesday, a spokesman for the airline Air Afrique said.

The spokesman at the company's headquarters in Abidjan told Reuters that repair work on the runway, partially damaged in the bombing, had been completed.

ADC seeks financial aid to boost security measures

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), operating in the United States under serious threats by anti-Arab groups, is seeking financial aid to tighten-up security measures at their regional office which require tremendous additional expenses, an ADC dispatch reaching here said.

"ADC has come under serious attack by unknown people who seek to intimidate us, as an organisation, into silence," ADC National Chairman James Abourezk said in the dispatch to ADC members (and supporters).

In August, 1983, a bomb was planted in front of ADC's Boston office, critically injuring two policemen when they tried to defuse it. In October 1983, ADC's regional director in Los Angeles, Alex Odeh was murdered when a bomb exploded in his office. In November, a highly suspicious fire was started in the building which houses ADC's national headquarters in Washington D.C.

"It is obvious that ADC has seriously begun to cut into the exclusive support the pro-Israel lobby has enjoyed in the United States for decades," Mr. Abourezk said.

In his appeal for contributions, the former U.S. senator said his organisation's grassroots work, publications and the ADC's ability to act as a focal point for the entire Arab-American community, "has made us all stronger in a cultural, social and political sense."

"It is essential that we continue this work — to show that we are too large and too well established to be intimidated into silence," Mr. Abourezk said.

The ADC is known as a large growing organisation that is using the techniques of the computer age to galvanise the more than two million Americans with Arab backgrounds and trying to compete with well-structured Jewish groups devoted to Israel's interests.

The ADC has focused on fighting the negative stereotype of Arabs in the United States. It seeks to erase such synonyms for "Arab" as "drifter," "floater"

and "vagrant" and has done battle with cartoonists who have portrayed Gulf Arabs as "oil-rich sheikhs" with a stranglehold on the American gas pumps.

The attacks on ADC staff and offices were among 20 incidents that American-Arab leaders cited last week before the U.S. Civil Rights Commission as evidence of a wave of anti-Arab sentiment among certain people in the United States. They asked the commission to conduct an official inquiry.

Also mentioned as an example of harassment and intimidation was the rape last August in Tucson, Arizona of a woman who had been dating a Palestinian. The two rapists carved a Star of David on her chest, leading the victim to suspect her assailants were members of the militant Jewish Defence League.

Wallace Warfield, associate director of the Justice Department's Community Relations Services, said his office is aware of 160 acts of harassment or violence carried out against Arab-Americans in the past year.

Mr. Abourezk was quoted by the Washington-based Washington Times newspaper as saying that Arab oil embargo in the early 1970's and the continuing Arab-Israeli conflict "have given rise to an ugly, racist type of anti-Semitism towards the United States. The racism, he said, is encouraged by politicians and made stereotypes like the 'Arab terrorists' portray in Sunday's NBC television movie, 'Under Siege'."

Oliver Revell, executive assistant director of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), told the civil rights commission that the concerns of American Arabs are legitimate.

"I believe Arab-Americans are at risk, and I believe certain individuals have targeted certain Americans simply because they are Arab-Americans. That is despicable," he said.

In his appeal from Washington for contributions, Mr. Abourezk said these attacks have caused ADC to do two things: "Move our

national offices into new quarters and to tighten up security at all our regional offices around the country. We really have no choice but to do both," he said.

"We are being burdened with tremendous additional expenses because of the necessity of changing the way we operate, and we are asking for your help," Mr. Abourezk said. "It is embarrassing to ask for financial help. But, unfortunately, we are not in complete control of events, which, sometimes are in control of all of us."

The executive director of the Arab American Institute, James Zogby, urged the Civil Rights Commission to look into the extent to which "harassment and violence against Arab-Americans constitute a serious infringement of civil rights."

Also appearing before the commission was Norma Odeh, widow of Alex Odeh. Mrs. Odeh complained about the lack of public outcry over her husband's slaying.

King delivers historic address to nation

(Continued from page 1)

to only those American officials who were directly concerned.

The King said the PLO leadership discussed the issue in its Baghdad meeting and decided not to accept the resolutions but the decision was not conveyed to Jordan. Therefore, Jordan had to wait until Mr. Arafat's arrival in Amman in January to tackle the subject. Furthermore, the U.S. administration had sent an explicit message to Amman stating that when the PLO publicly accepts 242, and 338 and "is prepared to negotiate peace with Israel, and has renounced terrorism, the U.S. accepts the fact that an invitation will be issued to the PLO to an international conference."

The discussions that Mr. Arafat and a high-level PLO delegation had in Amman last month concentrated on the "subject of American assurances and the PLO's position regarding those assurances," the King said. He said Jordan expected the PLO to accept the U.S. conditions since the "assurances met the PLO's requirements... and they reflected a significant change in the U.S. position in favour of the PLO."

"But our brethren in the Palestinian leadership surprised us by refusing to accept Security Council Resolution 242," the King said. "In spite of this we continued our discussions with the PLO in the hope of convincing them that their acceptance would cement a

very important link in the peace efforts leading to the international conference," he said. But the PLO answer was "that they wanted an amendment to the proposed text for acceptance of 242... an addition of a statement indicating the agreement of the U.S. to legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including... self-determination as stated in the Feb. 11 accord."

"We reminded that Palestinian leadership that the subject of self-determination within the context of a confederation was a matter for the Jordanians and Palestinians, and that no other party had anything to do with it," the King said. "The important thing was to achieve (Israeli) withdrawal first, then to proceed with what he had agreed upon."

However, the PLO insisted on its demand for the amendment and Jordan refused to change its position. The U.S. also pointed out that the question of self-determination was a Jordanian-Palestinian matter and the PLO had every right to raise it during the proposed conference. Also, the U.S. said it supports the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people as stated in the Sept. 1, 1982, proposal outlined by President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Arafat's reaction to the U.S. stand was that he wanted to consult the PLO leadership, the King said. "We asked him to give

us the final answer... while he was still in Amman, although we had ascertained, during that period only, that the PLO's decision to reject 242 had been taken in meeting of the PLO leadership in Baghdad on Nov. 24, but we had not been officially notified of it."

At this point, the U.S. proposed a compromise formula which called on the PLO to allow non-PLO Palestinians to attend preliminary talks in return for a freeze in the American demand that the organisation accept 242 and 338 until preparations were finalised for the proposed international conference. But Jordan turned down the proposal, the King said. "Our unwavering position was: No separate settlement."

The U.S. formulated a new proposal containing "the approval of the U.S. to convene an international conference on the basis of 242 and 338 including the realisation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," the King continued. The text was relayed to Mr. Arafat "who promised to study it and at the same time gave us three differently worded text which were one in substance, reaffirming the same PLO position which we had heard from the start of this round of meetings."

On the next day, the PLO chairman signalled his rejection of the new U.S. proposal and insisted that "recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people did not encompass the right to self-

determination, to which, the PLO insisted, the U.S. ought to give prior approval."

Mr. Arafat left Amman the following day and that was the end of "another chapter in the search for peace," the King said.

"After two long attempts I and the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan hereby announce that we are unable to continue to coordinate politically with the PLO leadership until such time as their word becomes their bond, characterised by commitment, credibility and constancy. On our part, we know of no other way of fostering confidence than by truthfulness or of strengthening it than by clarity. For confidence is paramount in constructive cooperation," the King said.

"As for you, Ladies and Gentlemen, who stand tall under occupation, who remain steadfast

in your ancestral homeland, who are the keepers of Al Aqsa, the site of the Prophet's ascension, who are the defenders of Jerusalem and the holy places, living symbols of the long history of the land of Prophets and holy men, and preservers of an identity which — God willing — will never be blurred or erased, to you, our Palestinian brethren in the occupied territories, I send my greetings, love and appreciation. To you I renew my pledge that there in Jordan we will remain as we have been: brothers committed to your cause and supporters in all you have to face. We will continue to support you, within our capabilities, by every available means. We look forward to the day when you will be a free people on your own soil, secure and confident of your present and future, and proud of the fruits of your struggle and steadfastness."

Iraq steps up air raids

(Continued from page 1)

The United Nations Security Council was to meet again to discuss the escalation of the war, now in its sixth year, but both sides have attacked the world body's reaction to the fighting as ineffectual.

Iran refused to attend Tuesday's session of the council unless it first condemned Iraq as the "aggressor" in the war, and President Ali Khamenei on Wednesday termed the meeting useless.

It also insisted that the council should condemn alleged Iraqi use of chemical weapons in the latest fighting, a charge Iraq has denied. Iraq countered that the U.N.'s failure to press Iran to end the war "has in effect helped the objectives of the Iranian regime to continue the war."

In the council chamber, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said there was "no precedent in which states made their acceptance of the council's competence conditional or optional."

Peres' adviser dies of heart attack

TEL AVIV (AP) — Brig. Gen. Gideon Mahaneimi, a top strategist for Prime Minister Shimon Peres, has died of a heart attack, the military command said Wednesday. He was 58.

Brig. Gen. Mahaneimi collapsed Tuesday night at his home in the Ramat Gan suburb of Tel Aviv. He was appointed the prime minister's deputy adviser in 1982 in the administration of Menachem Begin, and continued in his post under Prime Ministers Yitzhak Shamir and Peres.

His position made him a key link in the chain of military intelligence and political decision-makers.

In interviews last month, Brig. Gen. Mahaneimi suggested that Israel would hunt down Palestinian commando leaders and hinted that Israel might use assassination teams against them.

Thatcher suggests Turkey delay application for EC

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher recommended to Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal that Ankara wait before making a formal application for membership of the European Community (EC), a spokesman for the British leader said.

The spokesman said Mrs. Thatcher had suggested Turkey should seek to revitalise its existing association accord with the EC but that the question of membership should be left for the future.

The spokesman said the question of human rights did not arise during 80 minutes of talks described as friendly.

Mr. Ozal, on a four-day visit to London, earlier met Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Nigel Lawson.

EC foreign ministers meeting Monday in Luxembourg decided to resume the Community's association accord with Turkey which was frozen after the Turkish military took power in 1980.

Mr. Ozal, 58, led a return to civilian government when elected in November 1983 but the British

government and union leaders Monday both voiced concern over human rights in Turkey.

Some 70 people protested outside the Turkish embassy here Tuesday against what they called widespread violations of human rights in Turkey and two opposition labour members of the British parliament handed over a letter attacking alleged torture and political repression.

"When I think of so many in jail in Turkey, I think Ozal's visit is nothing more than a public relations stunt," opposition Labour Party Member of Parliament Jeremy Corbyn told.

Mr. Ozal's visit to Britain is his first trip to a Western European country since taking office, and the first by a Turkish prime minister since the 1980 military coup.

His stay began on a sour note Tuesday when many British politicians expressed anger over a Turkish ban on a planned speech in Istanbul by prominent left-wing Labour Party MP Tony Benn on the theme of peace and democracy.

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18:00 Projection prime (French)
19:00 News in French
19:15 Bergoglio at his
19:30 News in Hebrew
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13:30 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:15 Talking Points
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Instrumentals
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BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsday 06:30 Classical Record Review 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Ref. Lectures 07:00 World News 07:00 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 Pop Session 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsday 08:30 Nature Notebook 08:40 The Evening World 08:50 World News 09:00 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 The Classic Albums 09:45 Network UK 10:00 World News 10:00 Ref. Lectures 10:15 Country Style 10:30 John Peel 11:00 World News 11:00 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Monitor 12:00 News Summary: Kings of Swing 12:30 Hinge and Bridge 13:00 World News 13:00 News about Britain 13:15 New Ideas 13:25 A Letter from England 13:30 Assignment 14:00 Radio Newcastle 14:15 Top Twenty 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:00 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Network UK 15:45 Flinders and Swann 16:00 News Summary, Outlook 16:05 Jazz from Europe 17:00 Radio Newsworld 17:15 The Pleasure's Yours 18:00 World News 18:00 Commentary 18:15 Assignment 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:00 A Letter from England 19:15 Meridian 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsday 20:30 Discovery 21:00 News Summary, Outlook 21:30 Stock Market Report 21:45 The World Today 22:00 World News 22:00 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Business Matters 23:00 News Summary 23:05 In the Mountains 23:15 A Jolly Good Show 23:30 World News 00:00 The World Today 00:25 A Letter from England 00:30 Financial News 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News; Commentary 01:15 Merchant Navy Programme 01:30 Nature Notebook

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

MAIN CHANNEL

16:00 Koran
16:30 Religious Programme
17:00 Cartoons
17:30 Friday Prayers and Religious programme
18:00 Documentary
19:30 Sports
19:45 Robot
20:00 Viewer's Choice (Arabic)
20:30 News in Arabic
21:00 News in Arabic
21:30 Tomorrow's Programme
22:00 Cinema '86
23:00 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

17:30 French Film
18:00 News in French
19:15 French Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Pop Session
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Comedy: Mr. Belvedere
21:00 News in English
22:00 News in English
22:15 Hunter

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
Tel: 774111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsday
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:30 Morning Show
11:00 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
12:30 Pop Session Cont.
13:00 News Summary
13:30 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:15 Talking Points
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Instrumentals
16:45 Old Favourites
17:00 25 Years of Rock
18:00 News Summary
18:30 From the Holy Koran
19:00 Newsday
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An art exhibition by Hassan Agha at the Gallery of the Housing Bank complex (until March 6)

* An art exhibition by Youssef Badawi at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until Feb. 28)

* An exhibition of plastic arts at Yarmouk University (until Feb. 27)

* French exhibition entitled: "Le Monde En Bulle" at the French Cultural Centre (until Feb. 23)

* "Les amens 50" at 5:00 p.m. Thursday at the French Cultural Centre.

* A Japanese film entitled "Twin Sisters of Kyoto" at 8:00 p.m. Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Feature film entitled "The Natural" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 661026/7
American Centre 644371
British Centre 641520
French Cultural Centre 637009
German Cultural Centre 637009
Greek Cultural Centre 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre 620409
Turkish Cultural Centre 637007
Haya Art Centre 665195
Hassan Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
American Municipal Library 636111
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Feldner Museum: Jewelry and

tokens over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal'a (Cistern Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Jordanian artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muzayib, Jabel Lawdich. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630122.

Murphy Memorial Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 600000.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 years old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 637169.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, tel. 624590.
Church of the Americas (Roman Catholic) Jabel Lawdich, 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Amman, 636139.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, 678906.
Assyrian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 711231.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 712361.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.

PRAYER TIMES

04:51 Fajr
06:14 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:50 Dhuhr
15:08 Asr
17:26 Maghrib
18:49 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (06) 5300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:00 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
06:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
06:45 Cairo (RJ)
06:45 Jeddah (RJ)
06:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
06:45 Dhahran, Riyadh (SV)
06:45 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
06:45 Kuwait (RJ)
06:45 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
06:45 Muscat, Dubai, Bahrain, Larnaca (GP)

DEPARTURES

06:20 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:30 Damascus, Athens (RJ)
07:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:00 Beirut (MEA)
08:30 Damascus, Athens (RJ)
08:30 Athens, Paris (AF)
12:15 Frankfurt, London (BA)
12:15 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
13:30 Cairo (RJ)
15:00 Kuwait (RJ)
15:00 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
15:45 Bahrain (GP)
17:30 Baghdad (IA)
18:30 Damascus (RJ)
19:30 Kuwait (RJ)
20:30 Damascus (RJ)
20:30 Baghdad (RJ)
20:30 Jeddah (RJ)
21:15 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
06:05 Cairo (MS)
02:15 London (BA)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

— Bergen

Amia Kavar and Sosa Company, Tel. 622324-9 at your service.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair, with the gradual appearance of some clouds. Winds will be southerly to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18, Aqaba 26. Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 21 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local selling rates in Jds

Bahraini dinar 960 968
Dutch guilder 135/2 137/2
Egyptian pound 20/ 206
French franc 49/7 50/4
Iraqi dinar 344/ 352
Japanese yen (for 100) 197/4 200/5
Swiss franc 20/ 206
U.S. dollar 126/1 127/4
Lebanese lira 14/ 16
Omani rial 940/ 950
Qatari riyal 99/ 101
Saudi riyal 99/ 101
Swedish crown 48/1 48/8
Swiss franc 184/2 187/4
Syrian lira 23/ 25
U.A.E. dirham 98/ 100
U.S. sterling pound 509/5 512/2
U.S. dollar 353/6 357/6
W. German mark 152/6 155/6

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891228
Amman civil defence 198 199
Civil Defence Unit 771293, 773131
Civil Defence Overhaul 770733
Ambulance 193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade 198
First aid 63041
Blood bank 77383
Civil Defence rescue 66111
Fire headquarters 62209-3
Police rescue 192, 62111, 63777
Police headquarters 639141
Traffic police 624412
Electric Power Co. (363814, 624881)
Municipal water complaints 77122/8
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53300/60

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 813812/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 64428/6
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amman 64428/6
Jabel Amman Mat

NEWS IN BRIEF

Financial Committee to meet Saturday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Financial Committee will hold a meeting Saturday under the chairmanship of Musa Abu Al Ragheb to discuss two draft agreements between Jordan and the World Bank. The first draft agreement is for the development of manpower while the second is a draft agreement for financing the Cities and Villages Development Bank.

Haj Hassan to attend ALO gathering

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Haj Hassan will lead Jordan's delegation to the 14th meeting of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) due to open in Baghdad on March 4. According to a spokesman for the ministry, the Arab ministers will discuss a memorandum to be submitted by the ALO to the 72nd meeting of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) due to open in Geneva on June 6. He said that the delegates will also study a plan of action for 1986 and review recommendations and resolutions taken by previous ALO meetings.

Asad holds education talks with envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Higher Education and President of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (AI) Baqir Asad held talks Wednesday with Turkish Ambassador in Amman Sami Balci to discuss existing cooperation between Jordan and Turkey in higher education fields and ways of supporting these ties. The ambassador also renewed an invitation from the president of the Turkish higher education council to Dr. Asad to visit Turkey and for talks aimed at strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

Hamzeh to take part in Arab health council

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in eleventh meeting of the Arab Ministers of Health Council due to open in Morocco on March 10. A Jordanian delegation to the meeting will be led by Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh.

Alia to fly to Sana'a

AMMAN (Petra) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, has decided to make weekly flights to Sana'a, the capital of North Yemen, as of April 1st, according to an Alia spokesman. He said that Alia's planes will be making the flights to Sana'a every Monday.

Ministry stops imports of pickles, vines

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture has decided to stop the import of pickles and vine leaves as of the beginning of the current month. The decision is within the framework of ministry's policy to support local production.

Corporation studies badia housing

AMMAN (Petra) — A team from the Housing Corporation has embarked on a survey of the badia region in Wadi Araba to define the need for housing units. A corporation spokesman said that the survey is needed before embarking on housing projects in the badia districts of Jordan. The survey, which will later be referred to the concerned authorities, will cover Mudawara, Disi, Tubseh, Al Ghad, Al Manshir, Bir Ahmad, Dalagha, Al Rishe, Qriqra and Firan.

Engineers vote Friday in closely fought elections with political overtones

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Nearly half of Jordan's 16,000 engineers are expected to cast their ballots in Friday's elections for the posts of president and eight council seats of the Jordan Engineers Association.

Candidates running for these posts have organised themselves in three main blocs, with a few running independently.

As the countdown towards Friday's elections continues, no surprises are expected by engineers as far as their choice between the three blocs: The Professional List, led by the present association's president Ibrahim Abu Ayyash; The Professional Unity List, led by engineer Muhammad Abu Jabarah; and The Independent Professional Action List, led by Dr. Usama Anani. Several engineers ruled out the possibility of the forging of an alliance between two of the three blocs. Independent candidates are counting on such a move that would leave them more room to manoeuvre. Otherwise, they are expected to withdraw their candidacy on election day.

The possibility of a merger between the Professional Unity List and the Professional List "has become impossible now, after becoming certain that differences between the two run very deep and go beyond being technical or professional," contended sources close to the association.

The sources observed that the Professional Unity List and the Professional List "are not likely to do the same for the Feb. 21 general elections."

They explained that deep political differences exist between the two blocs over "the right approach" the association should adopt in the effort to solve the Palestinian question. Political affiliations manifested themselves clearly at the 1984-1986 elections, when the Palestine Liberation Organisation was intensifying efforts to heal the rift within its ranks. The efforts, though not fully successful, allowed the organisation to muster the quorum necessary for the convening of the 17th session of the Palestine National Council in Amman, despite a boycott by Damascus-based factions who opposed PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's handling of the organisation.

Mr. Abu Ayyash, a PNC member who also opposes Mr. Arafat's

policy, surprised many by endorsing the Arafat session of the Palestine National Council. Mr. Abu Ayyash won the 1984 election, in elections against Luthi Shikhat who was shortly afterwards elected to the Lower House of Parliament.

Several engineers interviewed by the Jordan Times said that Mr. Abu Ayyash won in 1984 because of the backing by engineers who were opposed to Mr. Arafat's policy. Mr. Abu Ayyash is known among engineers to be an advocate of abandoning the Palestinian peace efforts. He believes that Arabs should strengthen their ranks and strengthen the association to counter the Israeli threat to force.

Engineers told the Jordan Times that when Abu Ayyash ran in the elections in 1984, pro-Arafat forces put their weight behind his opponent Mr. Shikhat who led the association election. But when the parliament elections were held, several engineers, because of Mr. Arafat's backing, switched their support to Mr. Shikhat.

Sources close to the association said that Mr. Shikhat is supporting a rival bloc to that of Mr. Abu Ayyash in the Feb. 21 elections. They say that Mr. Shikhat may have taken the wrong move by attending the PNC session in November 1984 and facing off with the Arafat camp. Others believe that Mr. Abu Ayyash is as strong as ever and that other blocs are far from being seriously threatening him. They cite the recent collapse of the Jordan-PLO talks as a vindication of Mr. Arafat's policy.

With the introduction last year of about 2,200 engineers to Jordan's now slump market and with the projected influx of 2,500 engineers this year, problems facing the profession, namely unemployment, will exacerbate according to several engineers.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Abu Ayyash said that adding these figures to those of the estimated 800 engineers already idle, the engineers will be facing difficult problems in their struggle to get a share in the Jordanian market.

Mr. Abu Ayyash said that the local market can absorb 700 to 800 engineering graduates a year. A part of those are accommodated in training programmes. "We hope that this year, the unemployment rate among engineers

will not increase drastically." He said that the association is in the process of expanding the training and employment base of engineers. He said that training more than 120 engineers a year which has been more without a job by 1986. The number of engineers is expected to rise to 20,000.

Engineer Abdul-Rahman Al Bahr, who is running for a council seat with Mr. Abu Ayyash's bloc, said that the association has decided to reduce the number of foreign engineers working in the Kingdom and in foreign engineering offices.

Mr. Bahr said that 153 engineers out of the 227 engineers working in foreign engineering offices are non-Jordanians.

Mr. Bahr said that in order to avoid a serious unemployment problem, we have to create at least 14,000 job opportunities for engineers by 1990. Those are engineers studying in Jordan and abroad," he explained.

Mr. Abu Ayyash said that if the current association council was re-elected, it intends to introduce a new "organisational policy" based on the decentralisation of the association's authorities to allow various governments to elect their own members to contribute to the work of the central council. This, he said, is prompted by the disproportionate increase in the number of engineers and the increased work that the association has to handle in line with the new law.

The majority of interviewed engineers said Friday's elections "will be a close race" between the three main blocs. They said that no single bloc will be able to win all the nine council seats.

About 50 per cent of engineers expected to vote in Friday's elections are those who graduated from engineering schools after 1980. The bulk of those are not in favour of electing Mr. Abu Ayyash for another term, according to several engineers who asked not to be identified. However, they said, these votes could end up being divided between the two other blocs, which would increase Mr. Abu Ayyash's chances.

Leader of the Independent Professional Action List, Mr. Anani, said that he is seeking the president's seat to help overcome problems facing the association and particularly young graduating engineers. He pointed out to the unemployment problem and the need to improve the standard of living for engineers.

Interior official outlines citizenship law

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian citizenship law, first issued in 1928, was amended in 1949, 1954 and 1973. These amendments

depended on political developments in the country and were executed in a manner to serve the nation's interests, according to Mr. Salameh Hamad, director of the Aliens and Citizenship Department at the Ministry of Interior.

In a lecture at the Police Academy last week, Mr. Hamad said that the citizenship law, which has been in force in its final form since 1973, offers non-Jordanians the chance to hold Jordanian citizenship under certain conditions. A non-Jordanian Arab living in Jordan for 15 consecutive years becomes eligible to acquire Jordanian citizenship if his or her own country's laws so permit, and once non-Jordanians have acquired Jordanian citizenship they are accorded equal treatment and similar rights as Jordanian nationals, Mr. Hamad said.

Mr. Hamad went on to say that under article five of the constitution, the King is empowered to grant citizenship to any expatriate, provided that the expatriate surrenders his or her citizenship rights to another country. An expatriate, according to Mr. Hamad, means an Arab who was born in Jordan's East or West Bank and then emigrated to settle in another country. Expatriates also include all those Palestinians who were forced to abandon their homeland and live abroad following the occupation of their country, Mr. Hamad said.

The Constitution's 15th article states that the law grants Jordanians the right to opt for citizenship of another Arab country, subject to approval by the minister of interior. However, opting for citizenship of a non-Arab requires approval from the cabinet, Mr. Hamad pointed out. He said that the Jordanian government has the right to deprive a Jordanian of citizenship if he or she has served in the armed forces of a foreign country without prior approval from the Jordanian government, and that Jordanians would be liable to lose their citizenship if they get employment in foreign country's civil service and refuse to give up that employment if asked to do so by Jordan.

Rifai, Syrian minister review activities of joint transport companies

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai Wednesday conferred with visiting Syrian Transport Minister Yusef Al Ahmad to review cooperation between Jordan and Syria in land, maritime and air transport.

During the meeting, the two sides also discussed means of promoting the activities of the joint Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company and the Jordanian-Syrian Maritime Company. The meeting was attended by Minister of Transport Farhi Obeid.

The Syrian and Jordanian transport ministers earlier co-chaired general assembly meetings of both joint companies to discuss activities and plans of action for the coming years. They also reviewed financial and administrative reports on the two companies' operations, presented by their boards of directors.

One of the plans envisages expanding operations of the maritime company which is based in Latakia, Syria, to include shipping goods between the Far East and Aqaba. At present the company's two cargo vessels, Barada and Yarmouk, transport goods between Syrian ports and Europe.

Earlier Wednesday, Mr. Ahmad accompanied by Mr. Obeid visited the ancient Nabatean city of Petra in south Jordan and was briefed on the sites there. Accompanying the two ministers on the tour was the governor of Ma'an and local officials. Before their visit to Petra the two ministers visited areas in the Jordan Valley and Jerash.

Muasher returns from economic talks in Oman

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher has returned to Amman after what he described as a "fruitful and successful" visit to Oman. He said his five-day visit resulted in an agreement to hold a Jordanian industrial fair in Muscat in the second half of this year to highlight Jordanian industrial products and to help market them in Oman.

Briefing the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, on his visit, Dr. Muasher said that his discussions with Omani officials tackled all industrial, commercial and economic cooperation between Oman and Jordan. The talks, he said, resulted in signing an agreement on bilateral cooperation in economic and trade fields. The agreement will lay down the groundwork for organising export-import operations between the two countries and ensure more capital investments in either country in addition to launching joint ventures.

The agreement provides for the formation of a joint committee to supervise the implementation of measures designed to promote bilateral economic and trade cooperation, the minister said. He added that both sides agreed in

principle to establish a joint company to study joint projects to be implemented by the private sectors in Oman and Jordan. The joint company idea was included in a draft proposal submitted by the Jordanian side, he added.

In the talks, agreement was reached on dispatching an Omani delegation to Jordan to discuss principles for establishing a joint company for marketing Jordanian products in Oman, the minister continued. During the visit, Dr. Muasher said that he met with Fakhri bin Mahmoud Al Said, Omani deputy prime minister for legal affairs, and Mr. Qais Al Zawawi, deputy prime minister for economic and financial affairs, as well as the Omani minister of agriculture to discuss subjects pertaining to promoting Omani-Jordanian economic trade ties.

Dr. Muasher, who was accompanied by an official delegation from his ministry and the Amman Chambers of Industry and Trade, met with the board of directors of the Omani Chambers of Industry and Trade. Under Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammed Al Saqqaf was a member of the Jordanian delegation.

Farmers praise JVFA activities, suggest changes to improve its efficiency

By Saad G. Battar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JORDAN VALLEY — Officials at the Jordan Valley Farmers' Association (JVFA) and farmers in the region have defended criticism levelled at the association by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. During a recent session of Parliament the prime minister said: "Numerous reasons can be attributed to the failure of the association." He did not mention the reasons but added that the government, which has always supported the association is now unable to solve its "financial fiasco."

Citing examples of the JVFA's debts, Mr. Rifai said "the association's expected payments for 1986 are JD 57,000 whereas its accumulated debts will amount to JD 1,500,000."

In an interview with the Jordan Times, JVFA Director General Jamil Zureikat said the association, if granted flexibility in accordance with its draft law, could easily offset its debts which mostly represent unpaid loans.

Farmers interviewed by the Jordan Times described the association as "indispensable" as it provides farm inputs such as fodder, fertilisers, pesticides and equipment at reasonable prices compared to market prices.

Mr. Zureikat explained that the JVFA has some overdue seasonal loans amounting to approximately JD 1.5 million.

These repayments, Mr. Zureikat continued, are difficult to collect as most farmers in the valley have suffered losses because of marketing problems. "Statistics show that the accumulated deficit of the association is only JD 280,000 over the years of operation until 1985," said Mr. Zureikat explaining that the current deficit was largely the result of unpaid services to farmers in the form of pesticide spraying campaigns and extension services provided by 20 agricultural engineers in eight affiliated offices. The JVFA operates 20 spraying vehicles and charges very reasonable prices for the service, he added.

Regarding JD 1.5 million in loans extended to the association by the government and affiliated institutions, Mr. Zureikat said that about JD 1 million of this amount is due for repayment to the government and he expressed optimism that farmers would fulfil their obligations to the association.

"If the JVFA had been given authority to market agricultural produce, or at least to contribute to the process, it would have collected its loans in due course," he



Jamil Zureikat

said, adding that the association's statute states that one of its responsibilities is to market agricultural products but that article was never put into effect.

Marketing is conducted by the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO) which was established two years ago with a capital of JD 10 million.

Speaking about the JVFA activities since it was established in 1977, Mr. Zureikat said that about JD 4.3 million in farm inputs were sold to farmers at very competitive prices to protecting small farmers from exploitation by brokers and dealers.

Farmers air their views

In a series of interviews with farmers in the Jordan Valley, the majority held the view that the association was essential for the prosperity and well-being of the agricultural sector in the valley. Mr. Muhammad Al Kayed said that the JVFA is an institution dedicated to serving farmers and suggested that the economic crisis affecting the association was an extension of the recession which affected the country in the past few years.

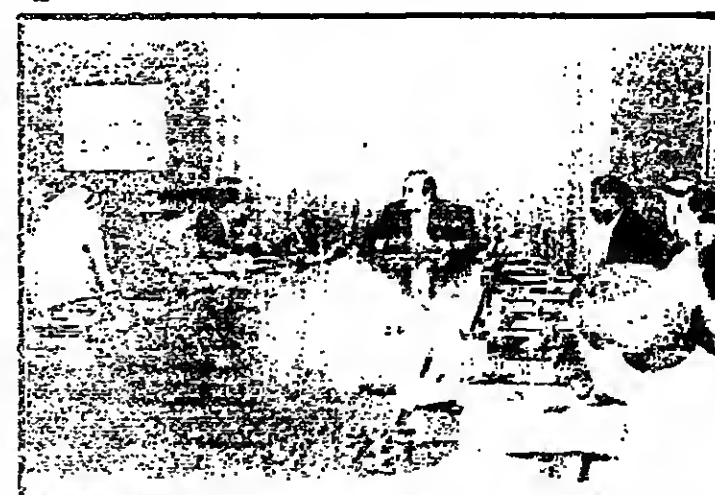
Mr. Kayed, who has a degree in agricultural engineering, attributed the low income of farmers to a lack of export outlets for Jordanian products. "Farmers here used to export the surplus of their produce to Syria and Lebanon, but now both countries have dramatically reduced their imports from Jordan. Moreover, market fluctuations and differences in the exchange of currency, the Lebanese pound and the Syrian new sheqel, have devalued by more than 50 per cent recently, made it impossible for farmers to sell to those markets," he said.

Mr. Kayed suggested that the Jordan Valley area should be planted with cereals and that this should be subsidised by the government.

Cropping patterns

The government has recently issued regulations that farmers follow defined cropping patterns in order to avoid glut in certain products. Mr. Kayed said that he adheres to the government pattern and tries to keep up with demand and supply fluctuations. He said he had started planting strawberries on his farm to cover some of the losses from cultivating some types of vegetables.

Commenting on the association, Mr. Kayed said that it provides the farmers with basic services and farm inputs at very competitive prices. "It is the only source that a farmer can resort to in times of need," he said. Mr. Kayed obtained a JD 2,000 loan from the JVFA two years ago and failed to pay the money back on time. He also obtained funds from the AMPCO and the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) and said he hoped to pay the JVFA loan back at the end of the season. The association should be developed in order to cope with gro-



Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai meets with board members of the Jordan Valley Farmers' Association in July 1985 (Petra photo)

wing demand for loans and its rising expenditures, Mr. Kayed concluded.

Mr. Yusef Salem, a small farmer, said that farmers have no choice other than to deal with the association as it is the only organisation which deals with their problems. Mr. Salem referred to the marketing problem and the low prices obtained by farmers for their products and he said that brokers and middlemen take the lion's share of the profits.

Dr. Elmi Amera, a farmer with a Ph.D. in agriculture, said the association needs financial support in order to offset its deficit and to operate effectively. At the start, he said, there was enough capital for the JVFA to operate and provide farmers with basic services and materials.

"Due concern by the government to regulate prices of farm inputs, application of the agricultural patterns and a minimum level for the prices of agricultural produce could help straighten out the situation for farmers," Dr. Amera said.

Cereals

Commenting on cereal cultivation in the valley, Dr. Amera ruled out that it could be feasible. "Introducing cereals would mean changing the whole system of planting which currently depends on drip irrigation which cost the farmers considerable amounts of money," he pointed out. Dr. Amera suggested amendments to the current election law of the as-



Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai meets with board members of the Jordan Valley Farmers' Association in July 1985 (Petra photo)

ociation to give more credit to personal capabilities and individual merits rather than depending on "social favoritism."

Discussing middlemen and retailers, Dr. Amera suggested the setting up of a "farmer's fund" to provide a financial backbone for the association.

Commenting on the recent government decision to scrap prices for agricultural produce, Dr. Amera said the move had been requested by farmers for some time but the results were not as expected. "Those who benefited from the cancellation of prices were retailers whereas it did not really help the farmers," he said. Dr. Amera concluded by calling on the government to establish parallel markets which could be of dual benefit to both farmers and consumers.

The Jordan Valley is the richest part of the Kingdom in terms of soil fertility and availability of water. It is known for its winter crops which could easily be exported.

Commissioner General of the European Community (EC) Claude Cheysson, during a visit to Jordan, expressed the EC's interest in importing winter crops from Jordan at a time when other countries are not exporting. The Jordan Valley used to send batches of vegetables on the national carrier to Europe, but this was largely done by farmers with large areas of land and was more of a private initiative than a collective marketing initiative by small farmers.

IDECO supplies electricity to 63 northern villages

IRBID (Petra) — The Irbid District Electricity Company (IDECO) last year electrified 63 villages and provided electric power to a number of rural population gatherings within its area of concession in Irbid and Mafraq Governorates, according to IDECO Director General Abdul Ra'ouf Al Sheikh. He said that

this brought to 252 the number of villages which have been electrified in the two governorates and that these villages are inhabited by 675,323 people.

The company, he continued, laid 183.1 kilometres of overhead lines and erected 96 new substations with capacities amounting to 16,245 K.V.A.

Hotel's management, owners settle policy differences

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Financial policy differences between the management and owners of the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel, that almost led to a pullout by the international hotel chain, have now been settled and the hotel will continue to operate under the same management. "All problems between us and Intercontinental (Hotels) have been solved," Bassel Jardaneh, the hotel's chairman of the board, said in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times.

Mr. Jardaneh declined to reveal the nature of these problems, and said that discussing them in public "is no good for the hotel's reputation and for the relationship between us and (the hotel's) management." He said that "in business, such differences occur... and when they do, they are discussed and resolved. That's all."

Mr. Jardaneh denied any connection between these differences and the decision to appoint a new general manager for the 400-room hotel. He said the hotel's general manager is traditionally changed by the board every two or three years.

The hotel Sunday hosted a reception to bid farewell to General Manager Antonius Mueller-Gerbrand and to welcome his successor Mr. Gabriel Khawan.

The owner company's Director Abdul-Rahman Al Bahri told the Jordan Times that the appointment of a new general manager for the hotel indicated that all problems have been solved. However, he said, "I wouldn't want to make any comment about these problems since they have been solved."

Well-informed sources told the Jordan Times that the problems

centred on a request by the hotel's management from the owners, for about JD 2 million to renovate the hotel's old section. The owners first rejected the management's request which they then considered to be exaggerated. But the management insisted on its request and threatened to pull out if their demands were not met.

The sources said that the owners considered replacing the Intercontinental management with that of Sheraton. They said a contract between the owning company and the Sheraton Hotels chain was drafted and negotiated. Under the contract, Sheraton had agreed to take over the hotel's management without the conditions dictated by the Intercontinental.

However, the owning company later agreed to the terms of the Intercontinental management. It was not immediately known what prompted the reversal in the owner's decision. The hotel is about 86 per cent owned by the government and the rest by Jordanian businessmen.

The hotel was established 27 years ago with about 200 rooms. In 1982, an extension to the hotel was added, but over the years, the old section was worn out despite minor renovation measures, and clients who stayed at the old section started asking to be moved to the new extension.

Worried about Intercontinental's world-wide reputation, the management insisted on having the money to completely renovate the old section or on pulling out after 27 years in Amman. The hotel, over the years, hosted several distinguished guests of the government and has been very active in contributing to social functions in the country.



Farm in the Jordan Valley, near the East Ghor Canal (J.T. file photo)



Historic address to the nation

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's speech to the nation yesterday cannot be seen as an ordinary message by an ordinary leader to his countrymen in normal times. The speech is an outstandingly far-sighted and objective account by an extraordinary and courageous statesman on a most difficult problem that has challenged us for many decades. As such, it is an invaluable lesson in history and national responsibility and should serve as a historical document for all students of this area, but more importantly for those people who are involved in and deal with the Palestinian question everywhere.

In his speech, the King did not only announce that Jordan was unable to continue coordinating political moves with the PLO leadership until such time as their word becomes their bond, characterised by commitment, credibility and constancy. He also said why this decision was necessary, explaining at every juncture the meaning and intention and consequences of all attempts and moves by Jordan to achieve justice for Palestinians and to help them wrest their national and inalienable rights from an unrelenting and powerful enemy. His Majesty left no doubt in our minds as to the sincerity and strength of Jordan's hard-fought battle for the Palestinian cause and our commitment to supporting the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people whether under occupation or in the diaspora. But by halting political coordination with the PLO, the King made it clear that support for and partnership with the Palestinian people would not automatically stop. On the contrary His Majesty was firm in that, even if this phase of political action with the PLO has ended differently from what we had hoped for, the principles and tenets of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord would continue to embody the foundations governing relations between our two peoples, with due regard to equality of rights and obligations in facing our joint destiny.

Jordanians and Palestinians alike no doubt share the leader's sad feelings about another chapter coming to end in the search for peace. All the more so, in fact, when taking into account that the past year of relentless efforts came very close to a significant reality that would have led to a serious and fruitful participation by the PLO in representing its people and speaking on their behalf under the eyes of the whole world in defence of their rights and aspirations.

Jordan, as the King pointed out clearly in his speech yesterday and before, has always maintained, and will continue to believe, that our top priority should be that of saving the land under occupation and putting an end to Israel's expansionist aims and designs. For us, the issue is as simple as that, and so it is for the majority of the Palestinians. No one is saying the challenge is, or ever was, easy, but at the same time peace is a sacred goal and it is worth taking risks and making sacrifices for. In the end, the Palestinians are those who have been suffering and will continue to do so unless the dangerous slide is stopped and procrastination halted.

In his historic address to the nation yesterday, the King did not give up hope in the triumph of the just Palestinian cause despite all the odds. But he left it to the Palestinian people to decide on their best course of action. They in the end are, or at least should be, the final arbiters of their own destiny.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Support for Iraq

AT a parliament session held Tuesday the deputies reaffirmed their total support for Iraq in its war against Iran and called on all Arab countries to extend help to the Iraqi people to enable them to defend their territory and the Arab homeland. The government, represented by the prime minister, also declared full support for Iraq and said Jordan's policy with regard to the Gulf war will not change. Both parliament and the government voiced backing for His Majesty King Hussein's national stands and for pledging Jordan's aid to the Iraqi people. This is a national stand to which Jordan has committed itself and which should be copied by all Arab states. What the Arabs need now is unified action against Iran so that the war can stop and no more blood shed. It is a common destiny for the Arabs who now face common enemies on the eastern flank of the Arab World, and struggling against a malicious enemy whose plans aim at dominating the whole Arab region. Iraq represents the foremost defence lines in the face of the Iranian aggression and ambitious designs, and therefore, all Arabs should join ranks to support Iraq and defeat the Iranian objectives.

Al Dustour: Total commitment

THE overwhelming support displayed by the Lower House or Parliament towards Iraq and the total commitment given by the government before parliament for backing Iraq clearly manifest Jordan's national commitment to come to the help of brothers and kinsmen confronting external aggression. It was King Hussein who first announced Jordan's backing for Iraq in the face of aggression because he believed that the Arabs make one nation that should be united and strong. The Parliament's reaffirmation of Jordan's support for the Iraq is an implementation of this policy and an expression of the Jordanian people's national feelings towards their brothers in Iraq who are now waging a battle of destiny in defence of the homeland. This overwhelming support by Jordan for Iraq stems from the fact that Jordanians believe that the battle is one of all Arabs and therefore, aggression should be repelled by all means. Parliament's call on all other states to join in backing Iraq with words and deeds is another demonstration of our belief in Arab unity. We are pained to see some Arabs shirking responsibility and failing to help their brothers in Iraq, and we must therefore set a good example for other Arab states to follow suit.

Sawt Al Shaab: Resistance continues

OUR kinsmen in the occupied Arab lands are continuously stepping up their resistance activity against the Zionists and Israeli atrocities. Our people there do not accept Israeli occupation, and measures to evict them from their land and homes, and therefore, they have decided to resist all the enemy's plans and plots. Our kinsmen have come to realise that there can be no way for their salvage and freedom except through resistance activity against the Zionist invaders. The Israelis, the Lebanese, the Algerians and the Vietnamese have all pursued the course of sacrifice and armed struggle against the occupiers of their land, and through determined efforts they finally achieve results. The Palestinians are bound to follow the same example for the sake of liberating their land and winning freedom. There is no alternative but to fight the enemy and to be steadfast and firm in the inevitable confrontation. The Arab countries should extend all possible help to the people in the occupied lands so that they can deal with the Zionists and free their country.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Grief and resentment engulf U.S. following Challenger tragedy

By Franz Schurmann

SAN FRANCISCO — Once again a tragedy has caught the emotions of Americans. The unexpected explosion which destroyed the space craft "Challenger" just moments after take-off evoked waves of grief throughout the country.

There was a woman schoolteacher aboard. People liked her. She seemed like what Americans call "ordinary folks." She was going to teach a classroom from space, and suddenly she was destroyed. But the grief says something about the current mood of the American people. Most people came to believe that riding aboard the "space shuttle" was as safe as flying in an airplane. And that is considered 99.99 per cent safe. Americans are fascinated by technology. And science which generates the technology is worshipped like

some pagan god. Technology is not supposed to fail. And if it fails, then willing volunteers, like "test pilots," may be killed. But not ordinary civilians like the schoolteacher.

The mood of the American people is not militaristic. People do not want to take risks. They do not want to see blood spilled. Naturally, they care less if blood is spilled in other countries. But they want no trouble. They do not want to see American soldiers involved in foreign wars. And they do not want foreign wars to affect the United States.

They also want the good life to continue, and for that, technology is vital. Last year there were many terrible airplane accidents. They did not bring forth great national grief. Nor did they weaken people's faith in technology. They seemed to

be bad turns of fortune, accidents which just happened to cluster together in one single year.

But the shuttle tragedy was different. It had turned out to be mainly a military enterprise. The Pentagon found it a useful weapon for military purposes. And, of course, military ventures are never safe. They always involve risks. And so the schoolteacher took a risk even though the public was not informed.

As a result resentments over what happened emerged in the U.S. along with the grief.

The circumstances of the tragedy and the prominent role of the president and his wife in consoling the relatives of the dead send a message to other countries. Despite all his right-wing talks, this old but young looking American president

does want peace. Or if not peace, at least an absence of trouble.

If people and countries are nice to him, he listens... and then forgets. If they make trouble he becomes angry, but then tries to find ways of ending the trouble as fast as possible. Late last year he began to make angry noises at Col. Qadhafi. And Col. Qadhafi responded, calling Reagan bad names. It seemed as if the United States was going to have a lot of trouble with Libya. And so the President turned away and paid less and less attention to Libya. And then came the shuttle tragedy and the work needed to submit a new budget to Congress. And so Washington forgot Col. Qadhafi even more.

And all the American uproar over terrorism. That too has

been largely forgotten in the American papers. If no more "Abu Nidal" incidents should occur, then Washington would be happy that there is no trouble. And with no trouble it can once again forget the Palestinians.

But all is not that simple. There is trouble throughout the world, and Washington never forgets it. There also is trouble in the space programme which was thought to have produced a vehicle so safe that anyone could fly into space, as if they were flying in a regular airplane. For any U.S. government, it is vital that American technology, especially military technology, be 99.99 per cent perfect. Military technology has become a symbol of American power and influence.

Deep down, it is not Col. Qadhafi that bothers American governments all that much. Nor is it the Palestinians. Nor are threats to American power and influence. The Soviet Union is a major threat, and Israel is a major irritant. The U.S. is now embarked on a course of improved relations with the Soviets, and successive American governments have long feared Israel's power to make trouble.

Ronald Reagan is an amazingly popular president in the United States. When he grieves for the dead astronauts, few doubt that he is deeply sincere. But much of his popularity comes from a public perception that he is, in the end, very shrewd. And the main thing about his shrewdness is that he has kept the USA out of trouble.

Clouds around 'oasis of peace'

Costa Rica prides itself on being a functioning democracy in the seething political cauldron of Central America, says David Gardner. But a hurricane of change may be round the corner.

SAN JOSE — Retaining a functioning democracy in the middle of Central America — a region best known in modern times for its neo-Caligulas and plantation oligarchs, Left-wing guerrillas and military gorillas — is no small achievement, and Costa Ricans are justifiably proud of it.

A few days ago they again staged what they self-consciously call a "civil fiesta" and elected themselves a new parliament and president, a Right-wing Social Democrat, Mr. Oscar Arias Sanchez.

So deliberate is this ceremony that even Costa Rican children go through a mock general election; at their own voting stations, with all the rigour and solemnity of their parents.

Let this be a lesson to the Left-wing Sandinistas in neighbouring Nicaragua, intoned the editorialist of a leading local daily. "To the Soviet colony to our north, ruled by a president with no more moral authority than his assentee as a terrorist." While the alleged pirates of Managua are widely excoriated in Costa Rica, outsiders are constantly enjoined to express their admiration for this, "the most democratic system in the world."

Yet much of this smacks of complacency at a time when Costa Rica's two most valuable political assets — its traditions of social democracy and neutrality — are under threat.

The country finds itself increasingly unable to afford 'the most lavish health, education and welfare services in Latin America for its 2.5 million people, a system which has underpinned four decades of stability.'

"Democracy alone does not earn you foreign exchange," as a senior European diplomat in San Jose put it. Last year, Costa Rica was due to pay out 74 per cent of its export earnings to service its \$4.5 billion foreign debt, the highest per capita debt on the continent.

Though part of the debt has been rescheduled, releasing new money last year from both the banks and the International Monetary Fund, the new government will find it increasingly difficult to bridge the country's seemingly intractable finance gaps from outside sources.

The outgoing government of President Luis Alberto Monge successfully reduced both inflation and the budget deficit to around a quarter of what they were when he took office in 1982. But, while it simultaneously brought Costa Rica's chronic current account deficits down by half, these still remain stubbornly at around \$300 million, equivalent to just under a third of total exports.

Regionally, Costa Rica risks being drawn into a front line role in Washington's war of attrition against the Sandinistas. Costa Rica is a neutral state which bu-

ked the regional trend by abolishing its standing army in 1948. Though it initially backed the Sandinistas and even allowed their most moderate faction to use Costa Rican territory during the 1978-79 revolution against the Somoza dictatorship. San Jose has become a truculent foe of Managua.

In the past four years, the country has become a base for parts of the U.S.-financed contra forces fighting to topple the Sandinistas, a presence which has fuelled explosive border tensions and an almost siege mentality inside the country. Along with the U.S.'s other main allies in Central America, El Salvador and Honduras, Costa Rica has also become part of the anti-Nicaraguan block within the stalled Contadora peace process for the region.

Finally, under U.S. tutelage, the Costa Ricans have begun to stray from their anti-militarist tradition and started to professionalise a portion of their 10,000-strong police force.

Voters' fears that under Mr. Arias's opponent, the Christian Democrat Mr. Rafael Angel Calderon, this trend towards confrontation would be accelerated was almost certainly what finally swung the electoral victory for Mr. Arias and the ruling National Liberation Party (PLN).

With both sides talking vaguely about supply side economic reforms, tax incentives for the private sector and the like, there was little to separate them domestically and Mr. Calderon bet heavily on a more strident, anti-communist foreign policy in which Costa Rica would in effect cease even pretending to be neutral.

This seriously over-estimated popular hostility towards the Sandinistas in particular and Nicaraguans in general.

Mr. Arias has been vague about his actual plans. He has pledged to build 20,000 new houses and create 25,000 new jobs a year for the four years of his mandate, and to reinforce the powers of Congress, where, although the PLN has an overall majority, the opposition — which includes two token Left-wing deputies — has more of a role than usual in Latin America.

His prime concern, he said recently, with visible self-satisfaction, is to preserve Costa Rica as an oasis of peace in "the hurricane of central America."

An oasis it remains for the moment, an image seductively reinforced by the plethora of flame trees budding throughout the rolling central valley of San Jose. The trees provide shade for the coffee bushes now being harvested, and which provide Costa Rica with its main cash crop. With the sharp recent rise in coffee prices — and indeed, equally sharply reduced oil bill — Mr. Arias will have a windfall to start his term. Financial Times news feature.

Lebanese fighters, Israelis fight pitched battles

(Continued from page 1)

in the south that five Israeli vehicles were put out of action by guerrillas.

He also lashed out at Arab governments for their passivity. "All this is taking place while the Arab countries are adopting an indifferent stand, not even expressing denunciation of events," the powerful militia chief said.

Amal's top official in the south, Doand Doand, told reporters heavy fighting was in progress around Hama village.

"There are casualties and Israeli vehicles are ablaze," he said without giving details.

Witnesses told Reuters about 50 black-clad Amal fighters gathered in Sifa earlier on Wed-

nesday as Israeli tanks took up positions on the village outskirts.

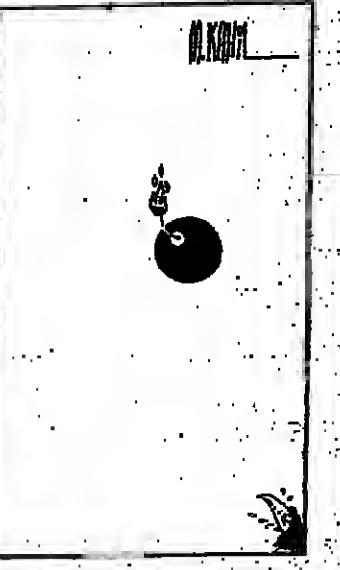
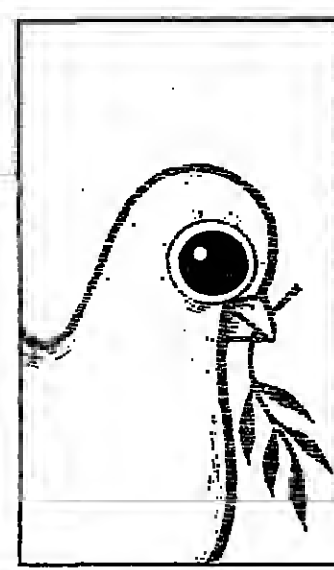
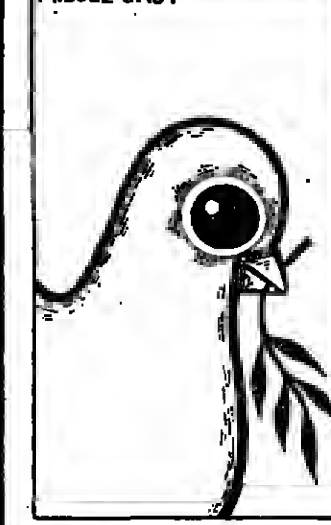
Wednesday's fatalities in Hama brought to seven the total number of people reported killed since Israel launched the sweep on Monday immediately after the two Israeli soldiers were kidnapped.

The other fatalities were an Israeli navy corporal killed by gunfire aboard a patrol boat off Tyre, a Lebanese Jew reported slain by kidnappers in reprisal for the Israeli action and five villagers in South Lebanon.

Goksel said Israeli forces were searching nine other villages in UNIFIL's Irish, Ghanaian and Finnish zones.

Commandos earlier said they fought "pitched battles" against

MIDDLE EAST



Liberation mood hits Haiti, but what is next?

By Phil Davison

Reuter

PORT-AU-PRINCE — The latest colourful T-shirts selling like hotcakes say Haiti was liberated on February 7, 1986, the day president-for-life Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier fled the country.

With a military-led junta in power, including long-time Duvalier aides, there is some doubt as to the extent of the liberation.

But changes, at least on the surface, have occurred since a wave of popular protests in provincial towns culminated with the downfall of Duvalier's government. It ended 28 years of Duvalier family rule in this impoverished Caribbean nation.

The guitar and bongo bands that play on tourist hotel terraces no longer sing about "Jean-Claude, Jean-Claude, president-for-life." Now they prefer new lyrics: "Jean-Claude was as strong as a monkey's tail. But we broke his tail in half."

They were referring to Duvalier's last public statement here

following rumours that he had already fled, in which, using an old Creole term depicting invincibility, he said on national radio: "I am as strong and powerful as the tail of a monkey."

Two weeks ago, criticism of Duvalier in Port-Au-Prince was almost entirely made in the privacy of homes, accompanied by furtive glances out the window.

Now, photocopied documents are handed out on the city's streets containing anti-Duvalier slogans such as a charge that Baby Doc's wife, Michelle, has the "terminal disease AIDS."

Until the final days of Duvalier rule, political activity or dissent against the government was suppressed and considered dangerous.

Now, youths wander streets spraying blue paint on wind-screens with their latest political slogan: "Chak 4 an." It's the local Creole version of the French "chaque 4 ans" (every four years), reflecting a popular demand that general elections be held every four years.

Two weeks ago, Haiti's handful

of newspapers were filled largely with pledges of allegiance to the president-for-life, signed by organisations, businesses and the public.

Now, they attack Duvalier, claim credit for his downfall and call on him to hand back the hundreds of millions of dollars of state money he is alleged to have creamed off into his foreign bank accounts.

Two weeks ago, a Haitian would have been arrested for walking in the cordoned-off avenue outside Duvalier's domed white palace in the centre of the capital.

Now, Haitian girls in curlers flirt with soldier sentries while young men delight in lounging on their backs on the wall beneath the palace fence.

"It's like breathing out after holding your breath for 28 years," one Haitian remarked.

The red and blue flag favoured by the anti-Duvalier movement has replaced the red and black banner introduced by Duvalier's father, "Papa Doc," when he took power in 1957.

Seizing on the coincidence that its trademark colours were the same as those in the new flag, an international soft drink company arranged a special colour edition of the daily "Le Nouvelliste" newspaper with the flag on the front page and its own advertisement on the back.

"The choice of the new Haitian generation," claimed the advertisement.

Haitians have delighted in getting rid of the name Duvalier from public buildings.

But with no new popular leader, they have settled for returning to the old pre-Duvalier names. The green roadside sign at the entrance to Duvalierville, a township on the coast north of here, where Papa Doc was born, has been painted white with the name "Cabaret," painted roughly in blue.

The international airport on the edge of Port-Au-Prince, previously called Dr. Francois Duvalier Airport, has reverted to its original name, Magaithe, which means "rotten corn," an appellation no one can explain.

Japanese radicals pledge to blow up Tokyo summit

By Toshio Kojima

Reuter

TOKYO — Our revolutionary army will blow to pieces the Tokyo summit and the 60th anniversary celebration for the emperor's accession to the throne.

That chilling pledge was made by one of Japan's most active left-wing radical groups which has already claimed responsibility for some spectacular sabotage attacks.

Called Chukaku-Ha (Core faction), the group made the threat in its weekly newspaper Zenshin (progress). But police had already decided that the April anniversary and the seven-nation summit in May were prime targets for protection.

The government plans to stage ceremonies marking Emperor Hirohito's accession to the throne on the occasion of his 85th birthday on April 29, although he in fact acceded to the throne on December 25, 1926.

Japanese leftwingers hold Hirohito responsible for Japan's war effort in Asia and the Pacific in the 1930s and 1940s.

They also revile Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, who is to host the 12th meeting of heads of government from seven industrialised countries here on May 4-6, and regard him as the country's most reactionary leader since World War Two.

Japanese authorities say they expect to mobilise more than the 63,000 policemen mustered during the last Tokyo summit in June 1979.

The Justice Ministry's Public Security Investigation Agency said radical groups could be expected to step up their activities when such tempting targets came into view.

In a recent report, the agency said: "In their struggles, Chukaku-Ha and other groups are expected to commit more vicious and grave crimes by carrying out many guerrilla activities with escalated tactics."

Furthermore, leading radical groups are expected to resort to large-scale group violence. Especially during the summit, they are expected to promote street fig-

hing with simultaneous attacks at several different places."

It was Chukaku-Ha which claimed responsibility for paralysing Tokyo's railway system last November 29 by cutting signal and communications cables at 34 locations around Japan.

The group launched the attacks in support of a limited walkout that day by railway workers opposed to plans to privatise the deficit-ridden state-run Japan National Railway.

Japan's Defence Agency recently decided to ask parliament to give troops the right to open fire on saboteurs attacking military communications and radar systems. Under the present law, military guards are allowed to use guns only to protect weapons, ammunition, explosives, aircraft and liquid fuel.

The report estimated the number of leftwing extremists in Japan at about 15,000. It said most belonged to five leading groups of which Chukaku-Ha was the largest with a membership of 3,200. The five groups denounce the

Japan Communist Party which shuns violence and seeks to achieve socialism through a parliamentary system, the agency said.

Police sources said Chukaku-Ha had an underground "Revolutionary Army," consisting of about 100 to 200 members known only to a handful of leaders, whose role included making bombs and other weapons.

Chukaku-Ha members burned down part of Nakasone's Liberal Democratic Party headquarters building in September 1984 using home-made flame throwers mounted on a stolen truck following his government's decision to enlarge Tokyo's new international airport at Narita.

The group also staged simultaneous attacks on Narita and Haneda airports last April, using home-made rockets with a range of about half a mile.

The attacks caused no casualties or major damage, but they created great alarm. "We would not want that at the summit," a police official said.

At the United Nations, Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar "regrets the violence and loss of life and the further hardship imposed on the hard-pressed civilian population of Southern Lebanon," a U.N. spokesman said.

The U.N. spokesman recalled a report last December in which the secretary general indicated that resistance to the continuing Israeli presence in southern Lebanon was likely to grow as long as Israeli forces maintained their "security zone" on Lebanese territory and did not complete their withdrawal from the country.

"The secretary general remains concerned about the increasingly difficult position in which UNIFIL is placed by these incidents," the statement concluded.

Witnesses quoted by AP said Israel poured more tanks and hundreds of troops in armoured personnel carriers and buses across the mountainous border into Lebanon at dawn.

Cobra helicopter gunships circled as Israeli soldiers surrounded about a dozen villages in quick succession, ordering residents out of their homes and questioning them, witnesses told Reuters.

In Beirut, about 1,000 teenagers demonstrated in the city's western sector in protest against the Israeli sweep, chanting "with blood, with souls, we'll defend the south."

All banks were closed in the Lebanese capital in a day-long strike staged to protest the six-month-old abduction of three senior officials of Lebanon's central bank. The officials, all Christians, were kidnapped in west Beirut last

Israel's army and Lebanese militiamen would take place if the search operation continued.

"We have expressed our deep concern that the situation was deteriorating towards a major confrontation and bloodshed," said Goksel.

Israeli officials said Israel was continuing its efforts to bring the captive soldiers back safely and operating on the assumption that they were still being held in South Lebanon. They refused to say how many troops were taking part in Wednesday's search.

"We have reason to believe the two are alive, and we regard those who stand behind the kidnapping act as responsible for the soldiers' well being and health," an Israeli army spokeswoman said.

King: Jordan has special role in Palestinian problem

'Where the Palestinian issue would have been today had Jordan chosen to abandon Palestinians'

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Fellow Citizens,
Palestinian Brethren Everywhere,
Arab Brethren,

I extend my greetings to you all. It is from you, from your public awareness, from my belonging to you and from my loyalty to your aims and aspirations that I derive my ability to outline the salient features of our primary cause, as we perceive them here in Amman, only some miles from Jerusalem. I seek guidance and assistance from the Almighty.

In recent weeks, Amman has been the centre of attention for much of the world, drawing media people and journalists from all quarters. News coming out of Amman was reported on the front pages of world newspapers, and occupied a prominent place in agency reports and news bulletins. But the content of these reports reflected mere speculation or expectations on the possible outcome of discussions held by the Palestinian leadership while in Amman with us and with leading officials of our government. Amman, along with concerned world circles, went through a period of expectation, but we preferred not to issue any declarations or communications until matters under intensive discussion, whether between us and the Palestinian leadership, or among its own members, became clear.

Now that a measure of clarity has become apparent, I consider it my duty as well as my responsibility towards you, being in the thick of events and in the eye of the hurricane, to appraise you of the most recent phase of political endeavour with regard to our foremost cause: Palestine, its land, its Holy Places, its people and their identity.

Dear Brethren,

Before I turn to the details, and in the light of obstacles and sur-

The only initiative from which Jordan excluded itself was that leading to the Camp David Accords, which it refused to join for reasons known to all.

It is likewise evident that failure at any particular stage did not deter Jordan from joining or initiating subsequent action which held the promise of seriousness or sincerity. There were two reasons for Jordan's determination and consistent policy:

First: Jordan believes in peace. As a member of the United Nations, it subscribes to the resolution of international conflicts through peaceful means and to peaceful coexistence among states on the basis of right, justice and equity as stipulated in the U.N. Charter and International Law.

Second: By virtue of: — Its immediate historical and geographical links with Palestine and the Palestinian cause;

— Its observation of developments in the occupied territories, particularly in Jerusalem; — Its informed understanding of Zionist thinking as well as of Israeli plans seeking on the one hand to take advantage of current Arab disarray, weakness and paralysis and, on the other, of Israeli military superiority based on long-range planning, persistent effort and vast, uninterrupted and stable material assistance.

Jordan recognizes the gravity of the danger inherent in the state of no-war, no-peace first and foremost to the Palestinian people and to Jerusalem, then to Jordan's own national security and, ultimately, to the Arab Nation at large.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

If we are to remain content with slogans and generalisations, the danger currently posed by continued Israeli occupation of the Arab territories — as a

from their point of view a security need arising more from psychological considerations than from those of space, distance and topography, which Israel attempts to highlight whenever the security issue is raised.

The objective circumstances of its creation, in terms of time and place, lie behind Israel's psychological preoccupation with security. Unlike most of the Third World states in Asia and Africa which gained their independence in the wake of the Second World War, Israel was not a colony of an occupying state because it simply did not exist. Had this been the case, the battle for co-existence would never have arisen, since it would have been a foregone conclusion. But because Israel was planted on lands expropriated from the Arabs at a time when they were fighting for freedom, independence and territorial integrity, the problem of Israel's acceptance by the larger Arab body — and hence of co-existence — has loomed large. Recognising this, Israel tried to impose itself by force, thus embarking on a vicious circle: the more force it used to impose itself, the greater the Arab qualms and rejections, which in turn served to fuel Israeli fears growing from an awareness of the recentness of its imposed creation in the midst of a vast sea of Arabs and, consequently, to trigger greater security concerns. Had security been a purely military matter, the Arabs would have had greater need to seek security guarantees in the context of peace discussions, given Israel's vast arsenal of weapons and its strategic alliance with the United States.

This was brought home in the wake of the aggression of 1967, when, through acceptance of Resolutions 242 in 1967 and 338 in 1973, neighbouring Arab countries also accepted Israel's existence. Instead of reciprocating this major concession, Israel resorted to procrastination in order to gain time to create new facts in the occupied territories as a prelude to annexing them.

The Israeli leadership has persisted in its claim that it was not convinced either by Arab assurances regarding its borders — assurances growing out of Arab acceptance of international resolutions pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict — or by the fact that the Arabs were prepared to arrive at a just and durable peace with Israel. In order to impose its will by force, Israel continues to hold on to the concept of security based on territorial expansion and military strength.

The crux of the problem lies in the fact that while claiming not to be convinced by Arab assurances on its security, Israel insists on rejecting the legitimacy of Palestinian national rights.

On the question of territorial expansion, Israel has had to face two problems.

First: That of perpetuating the occupation, with intent to expropriate and gradually absorb territory. Military strength was the obvious means of dealing with this problem.

Second: That of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, who succeeded, through their steadfastness, to press their cause on the agendas of international bodies, where the affirmation of Palestinian national rights and their restoration was the subject of a large number of resolutions. The Palestinian issue has remained the subject of debate at every successive U.N. session as well as in various international conferences, gaining or losing importance depending on global circumstances and concerns.

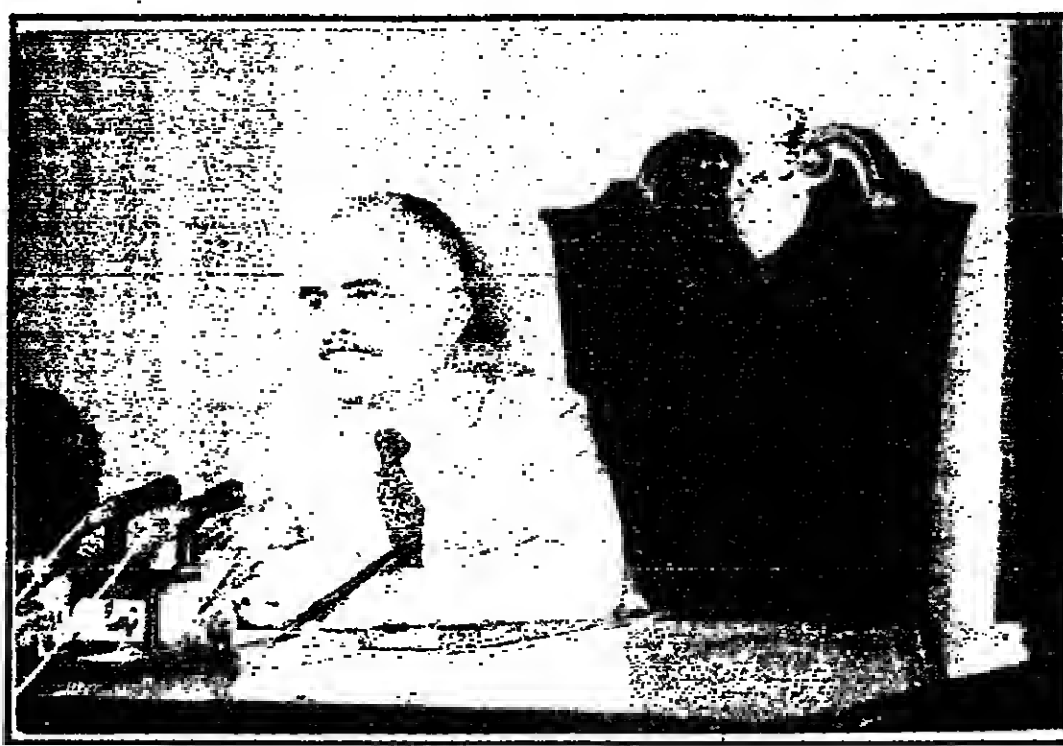
Given a state of affairs which enabled it to prolong its occupation of Palestinian territory through military strength, notwithstanding the will of the international community and Palestinian resistance, Israel proceeded to define its next goal: separating the Palestinians from their land. For this purpose, Israel perceives the Palestinians as two peoples:

— a people on the outside with little weight, as far as Israeli designs on Palestinian territory are concerned, because they have already been separated from their land,

— and a people on the inside who constitute the real dilemma and are the prime enemy, precisely because of their physical presence on the land.

The question for Israel is how to effect a separation between the land and those Palestinians. For this purpose, Israel has adopted an integrated approach along two parallel lines:

First: to expropriate the land gradually, through settlement



and other means.

Second: to exert pressure on the Palestinians in order to uproot them from their land.

These two lines of approach are the backbone of Israel's policy on the Palestinian issue. However, it has become clear to Israel, after close to nineteen years of occupation, that while it has made some progress on the first issue, it has met with little success on the other, mainly because of the steadfast attachment of the Palestinians to their national soil and the measures and policies we have implemented in Jordan to foil Israeli objectives — administrative measures as well as economic, financial, educational and informational policies.

The result of it all has been a major political dilemma currently dominating the political scene in Israel. What should Israel do with the Palestinians especially since their continued existence on their land, coupled with resistance to occupation, has created new tensions in addition to those already prevailing between Israel and the Arab states? These new tensions, which are a product of occupation-cum-settlement, transcend the conventional occupation and directly affect the occupying state in bringing it face to face with the issues of human rights and democracy. They touch upon Israel's international image and its very future. For the Israeli leadership this poses the following questions:

How is Israel to behave towards the Palestinian people in the occupied territories at a time when it has almost completed the annexation of territory?

Does it allow them to remain there, or does it throw them out? If it allows them to stay, does it offer them the right of Israeli citizenship? Or does it adopt the apartheid model of South Africa?

If it is to evict them, how is that to be accomplished or justified? If it is to grant them citizenship, what is to happen to the concept of a pure Jewish state as envisaged by the founders of Zionism?

Will world Jewry continue its support for Israel if it were to

are a large foreign community living in Israeli territory. This is an attempt to separate the Palestinians from their land as a prelude to their eviction when conditions may permit. The Palestinians have rejected this option, and so have we. 3. The third option demands the annexation of territory and the eviction of the inhabitants to the East through military force. This prospect, however, does not lend itself to mere rejection but requires much preparation on our part to ensure that it does not happen.

It is important to note:

First: That each of these options is rooted in two considerations: the inescapable shared destiny of the Jordanian and Palestinian people and the separation of the Palestinians from their land.

Second: That the third option, dependent on military force, is of a more recent inception than the other two. It surfaced during the last Israeli elections, and its proponents have seats in the Knesset today. It is gaining momentum, colouring current Israeli politics with an extreme right-wing hue. It has recently found an enthusiastic ally in the American right which believes that the Israeli right is capable of protecting its interests and acting as a potent force in an Arab region torn by division and intellectual strife, and plagued with inaction. The growth or decline of this movement in Israel depends on several factors, of which we the Arabs are perhaps the most important — depending on our level of awareness, the positions we take and the course of action we adopt.

Is it not time we, and particularly our Palestinian brethren outside the occupied territories, whatever their affiliation, drew the proper conclusions and directed our attention to the land itself and the people living on it? Is it not time we identified the

What should we do for a people who, despite all organised pressure to uproot them, persist in tilling the soil, reaping harvests and raising their children as best they could? If we are sincere in claiming that they are our foremost concern, what should we do for them? How do we reciprocate their marvellous steadfastness which has demonstrated that resisting persecution in one's homeland is far better than displacement, though bolstered by threats and public posturing. How should we support a people who, through their continued distinctive existence on their land, endow their cause with vitality and justice?

become a bi-national state?

If Israel treats the Palestinians along the lines of apartheid, how will it handle the democratic image vaunted by its supporters?

How is it to reconcile its stance as the protector of persecuted Jewry while persecuting others who, despite all Israeli attempts at concealment, are in fact the legitimate owners of the land?

These are the vital questions currently under discussion in the corridors of Israeli politics at party and government levels. As we see it, they have led to three Israeli options.

1. The first argues for the annexation of the greater and less densely populated part of occupied Palestinian territory, and a return to Jordan of the remaining and more densely populated segment. It is referred to as the Jordanian option, which we have rejected.

2. The second option calls for annexing the entire territories and granting autonomy to the Palestinian inhabitants, with sovereignty over their land, on the grounds that they

are a large foreign community living in Israeli territory.

What should we do for Jerusalem and the Holy Places which we mourn night and day? Will our earnest supplications lead to its rescue? Will it be protected by our constant glorification of its history and architecture? What are we really doing for Jerusalem and the Holy Mosque, or for the land and people there, other than some material help, which is decreasing every year, or ringing slogans after meetings or conferences, or well-turned phrases in communiques, or the gist of arguments and disagreements between conflicting groups, or messages of despair emanating from Arab disarray?

You may well share with me the question of where the Palestine issue would have been today, or of what could have happened to the Palestinians in the occupied territories, if we in Jordan had chosen to sever our connections with them or relinquish our obligations towards them as individuals or institutions, or set up barriers to their produce or commodities. What would lie in store for us all if we were to step aside and content ourselves with mere posturing?

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Because the third Israeli option, like the first and second, aims at resolving the Israeli dilemma at the expense of both the Palestinians and Jordan, Jordan has a special role to play, quite distinct from those of all other Arab countries. While it is true that Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt share a geographical contiguity with Israel, Jordan is the prime target of Israel's step-by-step policy. Thus the distinctive relationship between Jordan and Palestine is not a question that we take lightly. We bring it up in order to draw attention to objective facts and conditions which the enemy attempts to exploit for the purpose of implementing its expansionist policy at the expense of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. The common links between the two peoples are not only a matter of shared history, experience, culture, economy and social structure, but also a question of destiny. They represent a confluence of interest as well as of harm. If Israel seeks to utilise it to its own benefit at our expense, then we, too, should resort to all rational means, emanating from our responsibility to the nation and future generations, of bending our shared destiny to our benefit. I do not believe we need to elaborate on the true intent of the special Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. It is not a condition we created in order to set up an axis or forge a means for separate action. It is a fact recognised and taken into account by the entire world, just as it is by the enemy. We hope that our Arab brethren would heed it too and take it into their own account in the process, of formulating their positions or planning their actions. Joint Jordanian-Palestinian action growing from this special relationship should be construed as initial movement in the service of common Arab action. In the final analysis, any progress represents progress at the joint Arab level, which cannot be achieved without complementarity between Jordanian-Palestinian action on the one hand and the common Arab endeavour on the other. The Palestinian people in the occupied territories are weak without the Palestine Liberation Organisation. By the same token, the Palestinian people and the PLO, which represents its aspirations, hopes and interests, is weaker without Jordan, and all three are weaker without the Arab nation as a whole. This has been our vision in all our endeavours. The components are as

clear as the sun, and the position we occupy vis-a-vis the Palestinian issue on the one hand and the Arab World on the other, provides us with no alternative vision. In Jordan we stand in two circles at once: one representing the Palestine tragedy and the other residing in national commitment. This has dictated our position on the direct confrontation with Israel at the military and political levels.

One facet of our conflict with Israel perhaps lies in the fact that Israel is attempting to dislodge us from the circle of national commitment into the sphere of tragedy. On our part, we are resisting this with all our might, attempting in the process to endow the circle of commitment with content that is both practical and effective. National commitment is not a one-way street, nor is it a passive or negative stance. Armed with true content, it leads to proper preparation and action. If national commitment is taken to mean a state of inaction with regard to declared positions and characterised by fatalism, dependence or expectancy of what lies in store; this to us would mean only one thing: acquiescence in the fait accompli as well as a willing acceptance of the loss of what remains of Palestinian land and of the resulting destructive consequences allowing greater room for expansionist Israeli designs.

It is for this reason, dear brethren, that Jordan had to act and must continue to act. We cannot possibly close down borders and deal with the issue as separate from us. Experience has shown that inaction leads to erosion in positions as well as on the ground. The state of no-war, no-peace which has been imposed on us is a salient manifestation of this inaction. We must break out of its grasp. We must absolutely assert that the suffocation resulting from giving in to the state of no-war, no-peace is as reprehensible as the suicide arising from action leading to the relinquishing of rights. As we move

damaged by the war; building up infrastructure, such as roads, dams, canals, housing complexes, and energy, water and communications networks; utilisation of natural resources; expanding education and training; setting up specialised cadres at all levels; and providing the facilities required for food security.

Side by side with the implementation of successive development plans, we moved to strengthen our armed forces, which are the basic cornerstone in the defense of our nation and our state. We modernised the forces and provided them with arms and equipment, keeping abreast to the extent possible of rapid technological development. We established new military divisions and absorbed an increasing number of officers and men, bringing up the numbers to over a hundred thousand — one of the highest in the world compared to the size of the population. In short, although shouldering major and clear responsibilities towards our own as well as Arab security, we did more than our human resources would permit. We have always looked to our Arab brethren for assistance in securing our needs for advanced weapons in order to bring our armed forces to the highest level of preparedness, our people having provided the regular army with the largest possible number of recruits.

In addition, we are training as many citizens as we can to act as a supportive reserve for the armed forces. To this end, we enacted the National Service Law, which has been applied with the utmost precision to all our young men who fall under its provisions, providing us with considerable reserves. We have also begun to set up the People's Army, which will eventually encompass all the Kingdom's regions, cities and villages. Our objective is to achieve the highest level of defence capability leading to a fusion in Jordan — the prime target of Israeli expansionism — of army and people into one.

This, in brief, is what we have accomplished at the level of the

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towards peace, we reject the latter proposition as strongly as we do the former.

Fellow Citizens,
Palestinian Brethren,
Arab Brethren,

This, then, is the way we view the Palestinian issue, its ramifications and probable developments. Our understanding is rooted in a sense of realism but is also committed to our goals and informed by the requirements of Jordanian and Arab security in equal measure. Our obligations to Palestine, our policies, positions and actions are all based on this view. As I indicated earlier, it was natural and reasonable, in the light of the conflict and its possible ramifications, to direct our efforts along two parallel approaches in order to achieve the objectives defined at the Jordanian and Arab levels: restoring the occupied territories and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people within a framework of a comprehensive, just and permanent peace. The two approaches were:

— A defensive approach, comprising a build-up of internal military strength and a promotion of development to the limits of available resources and capabilities; and

— An interactive approach, comprising political movement in all areas and at all levels. At the level of building up our internal strength, our planning and implementation emanated from the following principles:

1. Optimal utilization of our capabilities as well as of our human and natural resources. 2. Integration of these capabilities with those of other Arab countries. 3. Strengthening the national fabric, rallying our people around the two courses of defensive and interactive action and deepening their commitment to a defined and united goal.

In line with these principles, we have completed three development plans since the June war of 1967, and we are about to embark on the fourth. The plans have achieved a number of objectives deemed essential to the strength of the state. These included: a radical

defensive approach, out of conviction that we should build our own strength in order to foil attempts at separating the Palestinian people from their land and to protect Jordan and the Arab East.

It is our hope that our brethren who contributed in the past to arming our armed forces would renew their commitment to providing us with the weapons we need. Their contribution would be a sincere embodiment of the integration of Arab efforts and capabilities. It would also be a fitting translation into action of the slogans raised by all with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

I might take this opportunity to make a quick comparison between the amount of military assistance received by Israel in the form of grants and loans from the United States during the period 1979-85 and that received by us in the face of clearly perceived danger and well-known pressures. Out of the allocations for arms purchases approved at the Baghdad Summit over seven years ago, Jordan has received a total of 2.5 billion dollars, compared to 12.5 billion received by Israel during the same period, in addition to its own production of military equipment.

As for the second, or interactive, approach, which comprises political action at all levels, we have moved along three fronts:

1. The Palestinian front 2. The Arab front 3. The International front

As I have already noted, the Palestinian front represents the cornerstone of Jordan's external, internal and Arab policies. This is both axiomatic and irrefutable. For in addition to our national, religious and moral commitment to Jerusalem, to the Holy Places, and to the Palestinian people and their homeland, we have a responsibility towards our own national security. During the past nineteen years, we have pursued action on this front in four distinct phases, each yielding a basis for movement. Thus we now have four bases which, taken together, constitute the framework of our political movement towards our defined objective: achieving Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and restoring the legitimate national rights of the Pal-

(Continued on page 6)

'Feb. 11 accord became a mover for peace process'

The principle of territory for peace is not a precondition but a framework for negotiations

(Continued from page 5)

estian people in return for a permanent, just and comprehensive peace in the region. These bases are:

1. Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967, which affirmed the principle of Israeli withdrawal in return for peace. This resolution is now the basic cornerstone, enjoying international unanimity, for achieving a just and peaceful settlement. It emphasises the principles of balance in any projected settlement. For the settlement to be permanent, it must be generally acceptable; and to be that, it must be equitable. History, particularly modern European history, is replete with examples of inequitable settlements which proved to be no more than time bombs triggering further conflict between states and nations. And the element of equity, or balance, in Resolution 242 resides in the principle of withdrawal in return for peace. Jordan not only participated in securing this Resolution but has supported it since its adoption.

2. Security Council Resolution 338 in 1973, which reaffirmed Resolution 242 and introduced a new principle, namely that of negotiations between the parties concerned aimed at achieving a peaceful settlement, but "under appropriate auspices." As we understand it, "appropriate auspices" means an International Peace Conference in which all parties to the conflict would participate, including the PLO, in addition to the five permanent members of the Security Council. The International Community affirmed that "appropriate auspices" meant an international conference by setting up the precedent of the Geneva Conference of 1973. We do not believe that that event was a mere coincidence, since the balance of negotiations between the conflicting parties was in favour of Israel, which is the occupying power with a vast arsenal of advanced weapons at its disposal. This gave it an undue advantage over the Arab parties, and by extension, the ability to persist in its occupation and impose its will. This is particularly relevant, since Israel's declared opinion is at sharp variance with the concept of an equitable settlement. Given this situation, it was imperative that a new framework be sought to

Since that time, the Arabs, both those who were then independent and those who have gained independence since, have held fast to this position, namely that they assumed the responsibility with regard to the Palestinian issue on behalf of the Palestinians. The West Bank then entered into a union with Jordan as a result of a declaration by the majority of Palestinians on the West Bank. In April 1950 the union was supported and ratified by an elected Parliament with equal representation from the East and West Banks. The Gaza Strip continued under Egyptian administration until Israel occupied it as well as the West Bank in 1967. It is appropriate, I believe, to call to mind here that the unity declaration by the elected Jordanian Parliament emphasised "that all Arab rights in Palestine be protected and that those rights be defended by all legitimate means to the fullest extent, without prejudice to the final settlement of Palestine's just cause." The PLO was established in 1964 for the political purpose of regulating the Palestinian voice under one organisation which would speak for it with the purpose of keeping the Palestinian issue alive on the world arena and for the declared purpose of liberating Palestine. The Palestine to be liberated ranged from the whole of Palestine to Palestine as delineated by the Partition Resolution. The matter was left to the deduction and interpretation of Arab speakers and listeners alike. The significance of setting up the PLO as a way station was that the Arab Government at the time wished to reaffirm that the Palestinian issue was an Arab issue while the Palestinian people had a say and a role to play in the struggle for liberation.

This decision represented the first turning point in the Arab position between 1947 and 1964. In other words, the PLO was established not with the purpose of giving the Palestinians an exclusive say but to include the PLO, in its capacity as a representative of the Palestinian people, in Arab positions and action vis-a-vis the Palestine issue — as a means of keeping it alive. This was confirmed in the years immediately following the establishment of the

that Jordan might succeed in restoring the West Bank by virtue of its good relations with the West, which had influence over Israel.

Second: Jordan had territorial ambitions in the West Bank.

Third: As long as the possibility of Jordan's restoration of the West Bank existed, who would guarantee that Jordan would relinquish the territory thus restored to the PLO?

It is to be noted from this position, which is based on suspicion, that the PLO at the time was not fully aware of a basic fact emphasised by us and borne out by events, namely that Israel gave the utmost priority to territorial gain. It was also evident that the PLO based its dealings with Jordan on suspicion rather than trust.

In order to dispel PLO suspicions, we proposed in 1972 the establishment of a United Arab Kingdom which would lay the foundation for the future relationship between Jordan and Palestine. That proposal was nipped in the bud, as it was rejected by the PLO, by Israel and by President Anwar Sadat, who severed diplomatic relations with Jordan in support of the PLO position. I should add that under President Sadat, Egypt had changed its policy of coordination with Jordan pursued by his predecessor the late President Nasser since the June war of 1967.

The PLO persisted in rejecting any separation between the role of the Arab states in attempting to restore the occupied territories, in accordance with Security Council resolutions, and its own role of representing the struggle of the Palestinian people to restore their legitimate national rights. And in 1974, at the Rabat Summit, the Arab states were unanimous in confirming this rejection, by deciding to regard the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In view of Arab insistence shown at Rabat, we gave our approval despite a detailed presentation on our part of the negative repercussions on joint Arab action that would result from the decision. Regardless of the manner in which the decision was received in Palestinian and Arab circles at the time, or of the resulting position achieved by the PLO on the international scene, or of our own commitment and adherence to it, a probing look at the decision, in the context of the Palestinian issue, reveals the following:

(a) As a result, the question of the restoration of the occupied territories and the national rights of the Palestinian people came to be merged into one whole. In other words, the Rabat decision came to reflect the unanimous view of the Arab nation that the Palestinian issue should be resolved in toto. Mere termination of the effects of aggression was no longer an issue. As a result, the role of the PLO was to present the Palestinian side in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict. Eight years later, the Arabs emphasised this by adopting what is now known as the Arab Peace Plan at the Fez Summit in 1982.

(b) The Arabs who had assumed responsibility for the Palestine issue in 1947 changed their position in 1974 by regarding a major part of this responsibility to the PLO.

(c) The merger of the question of rights with the issue of withdrawal from the occupied territories and the involvement of the PLO in the manner I have outlined did not simplify the problem as anticipated. On the contrary, the process led to a further complication, as Israel proceeded to add the PLO question to the other complicated questions surrounding the Palestine issue. It raised questions on the PLO charter, on PLO actions outside the occupied territories and on the degree to which the PLO was a true representative of the Palestinian people. The net result was that the PLO gradually replaced the basic issue, which was the liberation of occupied Palestinian territories. Perhaps the most salient evidence of this was that since 1974, no joint communiqué to which the PLO or an Arab state was a party, no speech or declaration by a Palestinian or Arab official, no resolution on the Palestinian issue by a regional or international organisation, in whose work there was Palestinian or Arab participation, were enunciated or adopted without an express assurance that the PLO was the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Things got to the point where the PLO, legitimate rights and territory became one, or came to be regarded as synonymous of the Palestine issue. Some Palestinians went as far as reg-

arding the PLO to be the land and the rights, and that they were one with the PLO. There was an ensuing confusion on priorities, the land no longer enjoying the highest priority or being regarded as the key to the restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian people. (d) The PLO did not in fact achieve the independence of action intended by the Rabat decision. Because its composition was based on a coalition of several organisations, most of which had connections with and loyalties to Arab and non-Arab States, it remained open to outside interference.

It is imperative that we keep these facts in mind as we seek the Rabat Resolution — the third basis of our political action.

4. The fourth basis emanated

Our objective is to achieve the highest level of defence capability leading to a fusion in Jordan... the prime target of Israeli expansionism... of army and people into one.

from the Arab Peace Plan adopted at the Fez Summit in 1982. Its importance derives from several considerations. For the first time the Arabs had unanimously chosen the peace option. The PLO, which participated in the Summit as a representative of the Palestinian people, agreed to the Plan. The Plan itself reflected a responsible and serious Arab position aimed at achieving a peaceful and equitable settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The question for all Arabs was no longer one of terminating the effects of aggression but of resolving the Palestinian issue in all its aspects, through the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with Jerusalem as its capital, within the framework of a peaceful and comprehensive settlement. More important still, the Fez Resolutions accepted the principles of Security Council Resolution 242, though without making an explicit reference to it. As is well-known, I headed the seven-member Committee set up by the Summit, which travelled to Paris, Moscow, Peking and London in 1982 and 1983. During our discussions with leaders and officials there, I stressed the need for an International Peace Conference. World capitals welcomed the Arab Peace Plan because it demonstrated Arab sincerity in the search for peace. But the countries concerned perceived it as only a general frame, lacking a plan of action which would help give it the dynamism required for progress towards desired objectives, especially since the Plan had allocated a distinctive role to the PLO. As I indicated in my speech to the Casablanca Summit on 7 August 1983, there is no problem regarding the participation of Jordan and Syria in the peace process. The problem resides in paving the way for participation in that process by the PLO with the other parties as a representative of the Palestinian people in order to give the Fez resolutions the practicality of a workable plan.

These, then, are the bases constituting our position with regard to the concept of peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue, namely: Security Council Resolution 242, Security Council Resolution 338, the Rabat Summit Resolution of 1974 and the Arab Peace Plan, which embodies in one form or another, the other three bases, with some additions pertaining to the national rights of the Palestinian people.

Further contact between Jordan and the PLO ceased except within the framework of the joint committee for the steadfastness of the occupied territories. The PLO became consumed by its internal differences which resulted in the departure of the Palestinian leadership led by Mr. Arafat from Tripoli, Lebanon, on Jan. 20, 1983. This was followed by attempts at reconciliation between the parties of the Palestinian coalition within the PLO, and between the PLO and other Arab states. It was then that the problem of convening the 17th Palestine National Council (PNC) appeared, particularly the question of where to hold that meeting.

In early September 1984, a member of the Palestinian leadership met with me and conveyed to me that the PLO hoped to convene the Palestine National Council in Amman. I welcomed their request.

On Sept. 27, 1984, I received Mr. Arafat, accompanied by other members of the PLO leadership, at Al Nadwa Palace in Amman. During our meeting, Mr. Arafat expressed the wish of the Palestinian leadership to convene the Palestine National Council in Amman. We officially notified him that Jordan welcomed the convening of the Council in Amman.

On Nov. 22, 1984, I opened the 17th session of the Palestine National Council by delivering a speech which contained our assessment of prevailing Palestinian conditions at the time and our conclusion that we needed to move politically outside the status quo of no-peace, no-war, which only helped to advance expansionist Zionist designs and posed serious dangers to the Palestinian

to warn against this, while reaffirming our support to the PLO. On Sept. 3, 1982, we dispatched the chief of our Royal Court and our foreign minister to meet Mr. Yasser Arafat, who had left Beirut for Athens, to reaffirm our support to the PLO as well as our concern for its well-being so that it could continue to fulfil its role towards its people and homeland.

In October 1982, we followed this by a political undertaking which engaged us in extensive talks with the PLO leadership aimed at reaching an incipient formula which could, with Arab support, become an Arab proposal incorporating the Reagan peace initiative and other international ones in accordance with the principles and purpose of the Arab Peace Plan adopted at the Fez summit on Sept. 9, 1982.

Those talks concentrated in particular on reaching a Jordanian-Palestinian formula, defining the future relations between the Jordanian-Palestinian formula, defining the future relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. I reached a final agreement with Mr. Arafat on the text defining our joint future political moves within an Arab framework. However, the PLO Executive Committee, which held its meeting in Kuwait in early April 1983, did not endorse that text, thus putting an end to our first joint attempt to initiate a comprehensive Arab political drive based on Arab consensus for a just and lasting peace.

On May 10, 1983, the government of Jordan issued an official communiqué concerning this subject, in which it said:

"In view of the results of the efforts we made with the PLO, and in compliance with the 1974 Rabat summit resolution, and through the strict observance of the independence of the Palestinian decision, we respect the decision of the PLO, it being the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Accordingly, we leave it to the PLO and to the Palestinian people to choose the ways and means for salvaging themselves and their land, and for the realisation of their declared aims in the manner they see fit.

"We in Jordan, having refused from the beginning to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians, will neither act separately nor in lieu of anybody in any Middle East peace negotiations.

"Jordan will work as a member of the Arab League, in compliance with its resolutions in support of the PLO within our capabilities, and in compliance with the requirements of our national security."

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issue, the Palestinian people and Palestinian land, as well as a consequent threat to Jordan's national security. We proposed to the members of the Palestine National Council our view of future cooperation, should the PLO decide to work with Jordan to reach a joint Jordanian-Palestinian formula, and I said the following:

"Let us be frank about your sacred cause. It holds the same interest in us as it does to you and its repercussions affect us as they affect you. The international position at large is one that perceives the possibility of restoring the occupied territories through a Jordanian-Palestinian formula. This requires commitments from both parties which the world deems necessary for the achievement of a just, balanced and peaceful settlement. If you find this option convincing — recommended further by our ties as two families linked together by a united destiny and common goals — we are prepared to go with you along this path and present the world with a joint initiative for which we will marshal support. If, on the other hand, you believe that the PLO is capable of going it alone, then we say to you 'Godspeed: You have our support'. In the final analysis, the decision is yours. Whatever it is, we will respect it because it emanates from your esteemed Council, which is the representative of the Palestinian people."

I also pointed out in that speech the general guidelines which would constitute the framework for our proposed initiative. These were:

1. Security Council Resolution 242, regarding which I said:

"The existing facts in the Palestinian, Arab and International arenas require us to adhere to Security Council Resolution 242 as a basis for a just and peaceful settlement. The principle of 'territory for peace' is the landmark which should guide us in any initiative we present to the world. This principle is not a precondition but a framework within which negotiations will be carried out. As such, it is non-negotiable. Negotiations we deem necessary within the framework of an International Peace Conference should revolve around the means, methods and commitments which would guarantee the achievement of the principle of 'territory for peace'."

2. The international conference, regarding which I said:

"The International Conference would be held under the auspices of the United Nations and would be attended by the permanent members of the Security Council and by all the parties to the conflict. The PLO would attend on an equal footing with the other parties, since it is the party empowered to address the most important and momentous aspect of the Middle East crisis, namely the Palestinian dimension."

3. A formula defining the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship of which I said:

"Organising the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is a basic responsibility of the Jordanian and Palestinian people. No other party... has the right to interfere or decide for them."

The Palestine National Council ended its meetings in Amman, having provided an opportunity for our brothers in the occupied territories to view its deliberations on issues which bore directly on their existence and future through live coverage arranged by Jordan Television of the council's meetings. Their hopes were revived, and delegations representing them began to arrive in Amman, urging us and the Palestinian leadership to reach a common formula which could rally Arab and international support behind it. We left the Palestinian leadership to choose the path it wished to follow.

In January 1985, we received the reply that the Executive Committee of the PLO had chosen to work with us on our proposal for joint political action. We started our consultations with Mr. Arafat's envoys on the third general outline, namely the Jordanian-Palestinian formula, since this formula constituted the base from which we were to move on the Arab and international arenas to convene an International Peace Conference.

In February 1985, Mr. Arafat, accompanied by other members of the Palestinian leadership, ar-

rived in Amman. An expanded meeting was held at Al Nadwa Palace which was concluded by the signing of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, known as the Feb. 11 accord. This accord incorporated the following principles:

1. Total withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967 in return for comprehensive peace as established in United Nations and Security Council resolutions.

2. Right of self-determination for the Palestinian people: Palestinians will exercise their inalienable right of self-determination, when it becomes possible to do so within the context of the formation of the proposed confederated Arab states of Jordan and Palestine.

3. Resolution of the problem of Palestinian refugees in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

4. Resolution of the Palestine question in all its aspects.

5. On this basis, peace negotiations will be conducted under the auspices of an International Conference in which the five permanent members of the Security Council and all the parties to the conflict will participate, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, within a joint delegation (joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation).

Our assessment, which was also shared by the PLO, was that the accord constituted the beginning of collective Arab action to be followed by rallying the international community, which had become a mere spectator since the signing of the Camp David accords and which had only paid polite lip-service since the initiation of the Arab Fez peace plan.

We envisaged the Jordanian-Palestinian accord as one of the links in the chain of collective Arab efforts, providing a mechanism to the Arab Peace Plan, while paving the path to facilitate the PLO to engage itself in the international effort aimed at establishing a just, permanent and comprehensive peace.

The PLO persisted in rejecting any separation between the role of the Arab states in attempting to restore the occupied territories, in accordance with Security Council Resolutions, and its own role of representing the struggle of the Palestinian people to restore their legitimate national rights.

As soon as the accord was announced, the international interest in the cause of peace in the Middle East reemerged after a period of dormancy. More light was shed on the Arab peace principles which became a central theme of discussion. The accord became the focal point of discussion both regionally and internationally. In other words, life was breathed again into the peace efforts after they were nearly buried in the grave of no-peace, no-war. The Palestinian people's hopes of salvation, particularly of those under occupation, were revived.

The accord became a mover for the peace process, because of the principles which it contained. These were:

1. The Accord's affirmation of a peaceful resolution to the conflict in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

2. The Accord's conformity with the principles of the Arab peace plan, derived from United Nations resolutions concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict in general, and the Palestinian problem in particular.

3. The agreement between Jordan and the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to form a confederation between Jordan and Palestine.

This last item, while it reflects the objective considerations which require close institutional links between Jordan and a free Palestine to the mutual benefit of their peoples and the Arab Nation at large, provides the key, or the mechanism, to the peace process for two main reasons:

First: It justifies the PLO participation in the proposed International Conference with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Since confederation is the ultimate objective, why not have the two parties concerned, assume one of the confederation's functions before it is established as a reality on the ground, particularly since this function allows for the participation of the PLO in the International Conference, which in the past decade has posed one of the most difficult obstacles in convening an International Peace

Conference? Second: It lays the foundations for a responsible role for the PLO in realising and safeguarding a just settlement through its link with Jordan, the sovereign state which enjoys a highly credible international standing due to its serious and sincere efforts to achieve peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

After the signing of the Feb. 11 accord and the agreement of the PLO Executive Committee which was empowered by the Palestine National Council to arrive at a joint formula with Jordan, we embarked with the Palestinian leadership of drawing up a plan for our proposed action. Two objectives were defined for this:

1. To rally international support for the convening of an International Peace Conference, to be attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council and all the parties to the conflict. This Conference would be convened under the auspices of the United Nations and called for by the U.N. Secretary General.

2. To ensure that an invitation will be extended to the PLO, representing the Palestinian people, to attend the Conference within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Before embarking on our joint action, we needed to ascertain the position of the states concerned regarding the above-mentioned objectives. Our inquiries indicated the need for us to move on four fronts:

1. Within the Arab World, so that Arab positions could be shifted from making public statements to, marshalling, coordinating and organising the elements of Arab potential to serve this cause through continuous and conscientious efforts. Our dialogue with our Arab brethren was conducted through bilateral contacts, as well as collectively, when I and Mr. Arafat jointly explained the dimensions, motives, foundations and objectives of the Feb. 11 accord at

the Arab summit conference in Casablanca in August of 1985.

2. On the international front, in order to stimulate the interest in peace in the Middle East by reiterating the seriousness of our undertaking and the credibility of its expected results. Except for the two super-powers, our joint effort on the international arena was well received and encouraged, whether by the secretary-general of the United Nations or regional organisations like the European Economic Community, or the other three permanent members of the Security Council. Our dialogue with many states was achieved through bilateral contacts, either separately by the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO, or through joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegations which visited Peking, Paris, the Vatican and Rome, when Italy was President of the European Community. We had also planned for a joint delegation to visit London in October 1985.

3. The Soviet Union, in an attempt to change its position regarding the International Conference, since it held the position that only the two super powers should participate in the conference and not all the five permanent members of the Security Council. There was also the issue of Palestinian representation at the Conference in accordance with the Jordanian-Palestinian accord to which the Soviet Union objected. Several contacts were made with Soviet officials aimed at explaining how the Jordanian-Palestinian accord could be employed to revitalise the peace process and requesting the Soviet Union to receive a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in Moscow. However, the Soviet Union did not change its position, despite our repeated attempts. On Nov. 9, 1985, in a meeting held at Al Nadwa Palace we reiterated our firm position to hold an international conference to be

(Continued on page 7)

'Thus came an end to another chapter in search for peace'

'After two attempts — we are unable to continue coordination with PLO leadership'

(Continued from page 6)

called for by the U.N. secretary-general and attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council with all other parties to the conflict.

4. The American front, which is close to the Israeli position. A special effort was therefore needed with the American side. Since without the participation of Israel, the party in occupation of Arab territories, there could be no international conference. And since there were no direct channels of communications between the United States and the PLO, Jordan undertook the responsibility of the dialogue with the United States, but in consultation with the Palestinian leadership. When we first briefed the American officials on the accord and explained it to them, it became evident that we were facing a problem with the Americans on two points: the principle of convening an international conference and the PLO's participation in this conference as a representative of the Palestinian people. It also became evident that the U.S. position on these two objectives reflected to a large degree the Israeli position. It was clear that our dialogue with the United States would require a serious and concerted effort. In the face of these realities and facts, we began our difficult endeavour, which lasted one year, and to which I referred earlier in my speech as the second phase of coordination with the leadership of the PLO. This was the last chapter of our diplomatic effort to reach a comprehensive, just and permanent peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In this last part of my speech, I shall describe to you the important features of every phase of our efforts during this last year. In order to clarify the picture to you, a reference to three facts must first be made:

1. Every round of talks between us and the American administration was always preceded by consultation with the Palestinian leadership, and followed by further briefing and re-assessment with that leadership.

2. Our discussions with the American administration in every round of talks dealt with two separate issues: the issue of the international peace conference, and the issue of the Palestinian representation through the PLO.

3. When we started these discussions with the American administration in February 1985, there was already another issue under discussion relating to Jordan's request to purchase American arms. This issue had started at the end of the Carter presidency, and continued through the Reagan presidency. Jordan adopted a very definite policy regarding it when we started our dialogue to revive the peace process. This position stipulated that there should be no linkage between the American arms deal to Jordan — a bilateral issue — and the peace effort, which has an international dimension.

Throughout all our meetings with American officials, we focused on two issues, as I mentioned earlier. However, during the period between the signing of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord and September 1985, we concentrated our attention on the issue of Palestinian representation and the means to ensure the participation of the PLO in an international conference. I shall review chronologically the stages pertaining to this issue.

We had agreed with the PLO leadership, from the outset, on the need to emphasise the concept of Jordanian-Palestinian partnership, while dealing with the Palestinian dimension on the background of the larger Arab-Israeli conflict. On this basis, joint delegations visited world capitals, as I mentioned earlier. They also planned to visit Moscow and Washington. Moscow declined to receive the joint delegation, in keeping with the Soviet Union's position vis-a-vis the Feb. 11 Accord. Washington, however, while not refusing the Accord, did not endorse all its principles. The need to concentrate on the United States therefore became apparent to us, just as the need to concentrate our efforts with the Soviet Union. We agreed with the Palestinian leadership on the following procedure for joint action:

1. We asked the U.S. Administration to start a dialogue with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation com-

posed of Jordanian government officials and members chosen by the PLO.

2. After this dialogue, the PLO will declare its acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

3. After this takes place, the United States will no longer be bound by its previous position not to conduct any talks with the PLO before the latter's acceptance of the two pertinent Security Council Resolutions. Thus the United States would recognise the PLO and a meeting between American officials and members of the PLO can be held in Washington to discuss the issues of a peaceful settlement and the normalisation of relations between them.

4. As a result of the normalisation of American-Palestinian relations a major political obstacle blocking the Arab Peace Plan which gave an important role to the PLO, would have been removed. Arab efforts could then be channelled to pursue the efforts with the United States and other countries to convene an International Peace Conference.

After agreeing on this procedure with the Palestinian leadership, we accordingly contacted the officials in the American Administration at the end of March 1985 and presented them with the idea of meeting a joint delegation in preparation for the next two steps which would follow as a result of the meeting.

In early April 1985, we received the American reply, which in principle accepted this proposal provided that the Palestinian members of the joint delegation were not leading members of the PLO or any guerrilla organisation.

We consulted with the Palestinian leadership, which provided us with the names of three candidates. The Americans refused them because they did not meet their criteria and asked that we provide them with the names of others who did.

In May 1985, we met with the American Secretary of State in Aqaba, who reiterated the Administration's position regarding the subject of the names. However, he did not exclude those who were members of the Palestine National Council. He also conveyed to us the United States Administration's suspicions regarding PLO intentions. The Americans expressed their concern that, if, after a meeting with a joint delegation, the PLO did not follow it up by accepting Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, it would have secured a political gain at the expense of the United States, exposing it to criticism and domestic and political difficulties, thus jeopardising the peace process.

On May 19, 1985, our Prime Minister conveyed this American position to Mr. Arafat. As I was planning to visit the United States at that time, the Prime Minister and Mr. Arafat agreed on the text of a press statement to be made after my talks with the President in order to alleviate American fears.

On May 29, 1985, I said in that statement at the White House Rose Garden:

"I have also assured the President that on the basis of the Jordan-PLO Accord of Feb. 11, and as a result of my recent talks with the PLO, and in view of our genuine desire for peace, we are willing to negotiate, within the context of an International Conference, a peaceful settlement on the basis of the pertinent United Nations Resolutions, including Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338."

The American officials affirmed, during my talks in Washington, their position regarding Palestinian participation in the joint delegation. They limited the number to four, two from the Occupied Territories and two from the outside. They requested that we provide them with these names as soon as possible so that the American Administration could take its decision at the appropriate time.

Upon our return to Amman in June 1985, we conveyed to the Palestinian leadership our discussions in Washington, who in turn accepted this proposal and promised to provide us with the names of the candidates as soon as possible. We waited until 11 July 1985, when some names were provided to us. We were told then that a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee had discussed this subject and agreed on the names of the candidates.

On July 12, 1985, we relayed a list of seven names to the United States Administration and waited for the Administration to inform us of its approval of four of the names on that list. We agreed that no public announcement should be made on this issue. But a few days later, we were surprised when the world press began to discuss those names. Suddenly the

issue turned into an American political one. The press began to discuss it and the Zionist lobby activities in opposition to it, culminating in pressure on the United States Administration to justify, defend and finally retract its position. As a result, we received American approval of only two names from the list, instead of four, one from the West Bank and the other from the Gaza Strip. After enquiries we were told by American officials that the Administration was still not sure that the PLO would fulfil the second phase of the agreed scenario, namely to accept Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

On August 15, 1985, a meeting was held at our Prime Minister's residence in Amman attended by the Prime Minister, the Chief of the Royal Court, the Minister of Court and the Foreign Minister from the Jordanian side, and Mr. Arafat accompanied by Mr. Khalil Al Wazir, Mr. Abdul Razzaq Al Yahya and Mr. Mohammed Milhem from the Palestinian side. During that meeting, the Prime Minister once again asked Mr. Arafat whether he was clear on the method of proceeding, particularly with regard to the second phase — namely PLO readiness to accept Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Mr. Arafat reaffirmed his acceptance of all steps and arrangements agreed upon between us, including the PLO's readiness to accept the above-mentioned Resolutions.

In light of Mr. Arafat's reply, we informed the American Administration that the suspicions it had on this subject were not justified and that we were awaiting their positive reply concerning the date of the meeting between American officials and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

On Sept. 7, 1985, we received the American reply, which said that it was not possible to hold the meeting before the first step, originally expected in June, was taken. This came at the time we were preparing for a visit to New York to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the United Nations, and to Washington to discuss with the American Administration bilateral issues and the peace process.

Assessment of the situation, prior to the visit, led us to believe that we could pursue our dialogue with the United States by concentrating this time on the second phase of the process, namely the International Conference, since not much progress had been achieved on the issue of Palestinian representation. Our reading of the American position led us to believe that further discussions could take place on that other issue, which was last discussed in May 1985. I mentioned earlier that from the beginning our dialogue with the Americans had dealt with two issues separately: Palestinian representation and the International Conference, with emphasis on the subject of Palestinian representation.

I will now turn to our efforts on the second issue, namely the convening of an International Conference.

In May 1985, in our discussions with the American Administration in Washington, we raised the issue of convening an International Conference because we considered it to be the venue for all concerned parties to meet, including the PLO. The American position was a flat rejection of an International Conference. Instead, the United States proposed that, after the PLO was brought into the peace talks, a meeting should be set up between Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, under the auspices of the United States, to be held in an American city. Upon learning this, we decided to cut short our visit and reaffirmed to them our definite and unequivocal rejection of seeking a unilateral approach similar to that of Camp David.

The American Administration then changed its position and proposed that the talks could be held at the United Nations in Geneva. Once again, we informed the United States Administration that we rejected this proposal, like the one before it, as we did not see that the problem was one of where the talks were to be held. We reiterated that Jordan's unwavering position was that it sought to reach a comprehensive settlement through the convening of an International Conference attended by all the parties to the conflict, including the permanent members of the Security Council. As a result, the United States Administration reconsidered its proposal and promised to ponder seriously the issue of convening an International Conference. We accepted this and continued our discussions concerning the issue of Palestinian representation.

During talks in Washington in October 1985, we again raised the issue of an International Conference after having proposed it to

the Administration prior to our departure to the United States. Meetings were held between Jordanian and American officials in Washington. The United States submitted a proposal concerning the International Conference, which, after careful examination, seemed to suggest a conference in name only. We on the other hand insisted that the Conference should have clear powers.

Among the various American suggestions was the inclusion of the Soviet Union in the conference only after it restored diplomatic relations with Israel, because this was an Israeli condition. We argued that

1. An international conference without the participation of the Soviet Union would be a flawed conference.

2. If the reason to exclude the Soviet Union from the conference was that it had no diplomatic relations with Israel, which is a party to the conflict, the United States on its part does not recognise the PLO, which represents another party to the conflict. Thus the Soviet Union and the United States were in the same position in this regard.

3. It would be futile to plan seriously to convene an International Peace Conference if any party had the right to place conditions on who could attend. This applies to the five permanent members of the Security Council as well as the parties to the conflict. Therefore, it was imperative that an invitation be extended to Syria, the PLO and the Soviet Union to attend the conference if the peace process was to continue and the efforts for a just and comprehensive peace were to produce fruitful results.

After extensive discussions lasting three days, the United States accepted the following points which we proposed:

1. The U.N. Secretary General would issue invitations to an International Conference under United Nations auspices.

2. Invitations to attend the Conference would be issued to the permanent members of the Security Council, including the Soviet Union in addition to the parties to the conflict.

3. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 would form the basis for the International Conference.

4. The Americans held to their position of requiring acceptance by the PLO of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, since these formed the basis for the convening of the international conference. We agreed to this understanding on the basis that Mr. Arafat had himself agreed to this last August.

We continued our intensive discussions with the American Administration concerning the powers and responsibilities of the Conference and we insisted that it should not be a Conference in name only but one that was effective and had a clear mandate. Despite prolonged discussions, we did not reach a final understanding with the American Administration regarding this issue. We agreed to continue our discussions of this central point, and considered that what we had agreed upon constituted a basis from which to proceed. While we were still in Washington, the cycle of terrorism and counter-terrorism began with the Larnaca incident, followed by the Israeli raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis. This had a negative effect on the peace process and our efforts were once again jeopardised by fears and suspicions.

Upon our return to Amman in October 1985 we informed the Palestinian leadership of what we had accomplished during our talks in Washington. We informed them that the PLO would be required to accept Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 in order to be invited to the International Conference, to accept the principle of participating in negotiations with the Government of Israel as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation within the context of the International Conference, which would be convened to establish a comprehensive settlement, and to renounce terrorism. We also informed the Palestinian leadership that our discussions with the American Administration regarding the question of the mandate of the conference were still inconclusive, and that further discussions would follow. We made it clear to the Palestinian leadership that a written statement of acceptance was needed from them, while leaving them to choose the appropriate time to announce that approval. The written acceptance was needed so that we could encourage the American Administration to proceed earnestly to convene an International Conference and to reassure them that the PLO was anxious to participate in the peace

process. We had already made clear to the United States Administration that Jordan would not attend the Conference unless invitations were extended to the PLO, Syria and all other parties to the conflict.

We also promised the Palestinian leadership that their acceptance would be kept confidential and shown only to the concerned United States officials until they themselves decided to announce it.

On Nov. 7, 1985, after talks with President Hosni Mubarak, Mr. Arafat issued a statement in Cairo denouncing terrorism in all its forms, irrespective of its source. The PLO Executive Council then held a meeting in Baghdad, and as we were not officially notified of its decisions, we awaited Mr. Arafat's visit to Amman to hear from him, once again, the final position of the PLO on Security Council Resolution 242.

Meanwhile, I made a private visit to London on Jan. 7, 1986 for medical reasons. While I was there, the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs arrived in London with a United States delegation. He requested to see me to continue our discussions regarding the issue of the International Conference. We held two rounds of talks in London, the first attended by the Prime Minister and the Chief of the Royal Court on Jan. 18 and the second on Jan. 20, attended by the Chief of the Royal Court. Throughout both meetings the discussions focused on defining the mandate of the International Conference and the participation of the PLO, as both issues had become interwoven as a result of progress achieved in the peace process. The American position had developed to the extent of agreeing to the right of the parties to the conflict to submit any disagreements between them to the Conference. However, we could not reach full agreement regarding the role of the Conference in settling disputes among the negotiating parties.

Concerning the issue of PLO participation in the Conference, the American delegation reiterated their previous position requiring that the PLO should first accept Security Council Resolution 242, in order for the United States to start a dialogue with it. The United States did not commit itself to accepting the invitation of the PLO to the Conference. Our reply was that we wanted the United States to agree to have the PLO invited to participate in the Conference if it accepted Security Council Resolution 242. This point became the subject of extensive discussions, during which I asked for a clear American position to relay to the PLO. The American delegation agreed to take this up at the highest level on its return to Washington.

On Jan. 21, 1986, I returned to Amman having achieved these results on the issues of an International Conference and PLO participation. On Jan. 25, 1986, our efforts bore fruit when we received a final reply from the United States Administration concerning PLO participation in the International Conference. Their reply came in a written commitment which said:

"When it is clearly on the public record that the PLO has accepted Resolutions 242 and 338, is prepared to negotiate peace with Israel, and has renounced terrorism, the United States accepts the fact that an invitation will be issued to the PLO to attend an International Conference...."

The United States would then start contacts with the Soviet Union with the purpose of participating, together with the other permanent members of the Security Council, in the International Conference, which would be convened by the Secretary General of the United Nations.

On that same day, Mr. Arafat arrived in Amman with a Palestinian leadership delegation. We held four extensive meetings in the course of four days. I presided over three of these meetings. The discussion concentrated on the subject of American assurances and the PLO's position regarding those assurances. We assumed that the PLO would accept these since:

1. The assurances met the PLO's requirements.

2. They reflected a significant change in the United States position in favour of the PLO. The U.S. position regarding the PLO when we first started our intensive year-long dialogue, had been that the United States would only enter into talks with the PLO after the latter's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 242. Now, by comparison, the United States present position was that it was willing to go one more step beyond talking to the PLO, by accepting to have the PLO invited to the International Conference.

But our brethren in the Palestinian leadership suggested by

refusing to accept Security Council Resolution 242 within this context, while acknowledging what they described as our "extraordinary effort," which caused a significant change in the United States position, and which would not have been possible had it not been for the respect, credibility and trust which our country, Jordan, enjoyed in this world.

In spite of this, we continued our discussions with the PLO leadership in the hope of convincing them that their acceptance would cement a very important link in the peace efforts leading to the International Conference, which in the unanimous view of the Arabs and all peace-loving people constitutes the major venue for the establishment of a comprehensive, permanent and just peace. It is towards the objective of convening such a conference that we have worked tirelessly for the past nine years, but to no avail. Now that the opportunity was here, we hoped that it would not be wasted like other missed opportunities if we were to remain faithful to our goals of saving our people and liberating our land and holy places.

The answer of the Palestinian leadership was that they wanted an amendment to the proposed text for acceptance of 242. The amendment would require an addition of a statement indicating the agreement of the United States to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination within the context of a confederation between Jordan and Palestine — as stated in the Feb. 11 Accord. We reminded the Palestinian leadership that the subject of self-determination within the context of a confederation was a matter for the Jordanians and Palestinians, and that no other party had anything to do with it. Nothing was to be gained from the support of this or that state as long as we ourselves were committed to it. The important thing was to achieve withdrawal first, then to proceed with what we had agreed upon. We reminded them that this had always been our position and that we had it clear all along, starting from my opening address in Amman at the 17th session of the Palestine National Council, in which I referred to the proposed Jordanian-Palestinian relationship and continuing through all our discussions to date. We said to them that involving the United States, or others, in this matter meant that we were voluntarily opening the door to others to interfere in our common concerns and those of a people who had a sovereign right to their land and their own decision making — unless they were dealing with us on a basis of lack of confidence. But despite this, the Palestinian leadership insisted on their position.

And despite the fact that the most recent American position had satisfied PLO demands, we agreed to resume contacts with officials in Washington through the American Embassy in Amman on the evening of Jan. 27, 1986. The American response was as follows:

1. The Feb. 11 Accord is a Jordanian-Palestinian Accord that does not involve the United States.

2. The United States supports the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people as stated in the Reagan Peace Initiative.

3. The PLO, like any other party, has the right to propose anything it wishes, including the right of self-determination, at the International Conference.

4. For all these reasons, the United States adheres to its position.

We relayed the American response to Mr. Arafat during an enlarged meeting at Al Nadwa Palace on Jan. 28, but he insisted that we try again. We indicated to him that we had gone as far as we could with the American Administration at that stage, but he insisted, so we got to touch once again and the reply was that the United States adhered to its position.

On the morning of Jan. 29, an enlarged meeting was held at the Prime Ministry and I headed the Jordanian side. I informed Mr. Arafat and his party of the American position as reaffirmed to us once again. The meeting ended with a statement by Mr. Arafat that he needed to consult the Palestinian leadership. We asked him to give us the final answer on the PLO position with regard to Resolution 242 while he was still in Amman, although we had ascertained, during that period only, that the PLO's decision to reject 242 had been taken in the meeting of the PLO leadership in Baghdad on Nov. 24, 1985, but we had not been officially notified of that.

On the same evening (Jan. 29) we received a suggestion from the American Administration to the effect that the United States feels that since the PLO cannot decide at present to accept 242, it can wait until the time it considers

appropriate. The United States feels that the peace process can still proceed with Palestinian participation from the occupied territories. The opportunity will remain available for the PLO to take part in the International Conference the moment it accepts Resolution 242.

In our reply to the United States, indicating that this time the suggestion concerned not only the PLO but Jordan as well, since our unwavering position was: no separate settlement.

President Reagan wrote to me on Jan. 31, 1986 explaining his inability to proceed in his efforts with Congress for the sale of American arms to Jordan. We had sought to acquire the arms since 1979 in the face of fierce Zionist opposition. I had received assurances from the President that our requirements would be met.

On the evening of the same day, the Minister of Court informed Mr. Arafat of the latest American suggestion to proceed with the peace process without the PLO until it meets the set conditions. He also informed him of our refusal of this suggestion and apprised him of President Reagan's letter explaining his inability to meet Jordan's requirements.

On Feb. 3, 1986, the American side presented a new text containing the approval of the United States to convene an International Conference on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 including the realisation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. We met with Mr. Arafat on the same evening at Al Nadwa Palace and we handed him the new American text. He promised to study it and at the same time gave us three differently worded texts which were one in substance, reaffirming the same PLO position which we had heard from the start of this round of meetings.

On Feb. 6, Mr. Arafat had a meeting with our Prime Minister at his residence. The meeting was attended by the Chief of the Royal Court and by Mr. Abdul Razzaq Al Yahya and Mr. Hani Al Hassan from the Palestinian side. Mr. Arafat informed the Prime Minister that despite the positive development of the American position, recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people did not encompass the right to self-determination, to which, the PLO insisted, the United States ought to give its prior approval.

On Feb. 7, Mr. Arafat left Amman still insisting on his position and on the reasons why the PLO was unable to accept Resolution 242. Hinging on this agreement, of course, was an immediate opening of an American-Palestinian dialogue on the basis of which we would have continued our efforts for convening an International Peace Conference to which the PLO would be invited to participate as a representative of the Palestinian people.

Thus came to an end another chapter in the search for peace. Another extremely important and significant round of Jordanian-Palestinian action was terminated — after a full year of serious and persistent effort to transform the PLO role, referred to in the Arab Peace Plan, into a significant reality that would go beyond a mere statement of positions. It would have led to a presence and participation by the PLO in an International Conference, at the invitation of the U.N. Secretary-General, to represent its people and speak on their behalf with their adversary under the eyes of the world, side by side with the other parties concerned and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have gone through a grueling year of intensive effort and faced a host of obstacles, in many instances exceeding the limits of our endurance. But we succeeded in achieving what had been felt to be impossible. We opened up avenues that had been considered closed to us and to our Arab and Palestinian brethren. We were able to carry the Feb. Resolution to a point preceding the International Peace Conference, for which it called. Buoyed on the one hand by progress achieved in providing a real opportunity for peace and, on the other by the impediments when we were so close to the finishing line, we have felt it imperative to give a full public account of the situation and once again turn the matter over to the Palestinian fora in the occupied territories and the diaspora as well as Arab capitals and organisations.

Fellow Citizens,

Palestinian Brethren,

Arab Brethren,

This is the way in which we view the present status of the Palestinian issue within and outside the occupied territories. It is our analysis of developments in the context of the state of no-war,

no-peace and their effect on the future of the Palestinian people, who are threatened with separation from their land. It is also an account of our joint action with the PLO leadership over a year of continuous effort aimed at moving the peace process, before it is too late, out of the debilitating sphere of inaction into the revitalising realm of positive action. It was undoubtedly a precious opportunity to achieve our objectives and thwart enemy plans which are clear for all to see.

But if this phase of political action with the PLO has ended differently from what we had hoped for, the principles and tenets of the Jordanian-Palestinian Accord will continue to embody the foundations governing relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples with regard to equality of rights and obligations in facing our joint destiny.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It has been my destiny to experience the various phases of the Palestine tragedy, as well as the results of the implementation of Zionist plans drawn up by forces which know what they want and carry out what they have planned, stage by stage. I have not seen or observed any emergence of the long-awaited Arab plan which would be capable of defending the just cause of a brotherly and dear people who surely deserve better than their continued plight currently holds for them.

It has also been my destiny to carry out my responsibilities in an Arab country, contiguous to the land of Palestine, which contains the remains of my ancestor Hashem in Gaza and which was blessed by the sojourn of my ancestor Prophet Mohammad — May God's Prayers and Blessings be upon him — whom the Almighty selected to inspire mankind and whom He sent to the First Qibla and the Third Holy Place in Jerusalem, where my great grandfather is buried — a great grandfather who sacrificed all in defence of the rights of the Palestinian people on their national soil and asked to be buried within the confines of the Holy Mosque. And my grandfather who moved to the defence of Al Aqsa Mosque in 1948 in the face of the most difficult circumstances that could confront a leader at the time. With me at his side, he fell, a martyr in the mosque which he had rescued.

As I see what goes on in Jerusalem, Gaza, Nablus, Hebron and other cities, villages and camps on the West Bank and at the same time observe what goes on outside, my heart turns heavy. I have no alternative but to appraise you of the facts. No one can expect anything but rejection on my part of the prevailing state of disarray which I see all around us. No one can expect anything but a frank disclosure from me. I will not be a party to concealment at a most critical juncture in your lives. I am one of you; I belong to you. I experience deeply every detail of our cause, the cause of all Arabs.

Next to my faith in God Almighty, I have faith in you and in your ability to direct the course to its proper path.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

After two long attempts I and the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan hereby announce that we are unable to continue to coordinate politically with the PLO leadership until such time as their word becomes their bond, characterised by commitment, credibility and constancy. On our part, we know of no other way of fostering confidence than by truthfulness or of strengthening it than by clarity. For confidence is paramount in constructive cooperation.

As for you, Ladies and Gentlemen, who stand tall under occupation, who remain steadfast in our ancestral homeland, who are the keepers of Al Aqsa, the site of the Prophet's ascension, who are the defenders of Jerusalem and the Holy Places, living symbols of the long history of the land of prophets and holy men, and preservers of an identity which — God willing — will never be blurred or erased, to you, our Palestinian brethren in the occupied territories, I send my greetings, love and appreciation. To you I renew my pledge that here in Jordan we will remain as we have been: brothers committed to your cause and supporters in all you have to face. We will continue to support you, within our capabilities, by every available means. We look forward to the day when you will be a free people on your own soil, secure and confident of your present and future and proud of the fruits of your struggle and steadfastness.

As God is my witness, I have conveyed the message.

As God is my witness, I have conveyed the message.

From the Almighty we draw the support. Peace be unto you and God's mercy and blessings.

Australian advocate of steroids is under fire

SYDNEY (R) — The government and top Australian Olympic officials called Wednesday for the dismissal of the country's Commonwealth Games team doctor because of his support for banned body-building drugs.

Dr. Tony Millar, a pioneer in sports medicine in Australia, sparked a furious row over his claim that it was not the use of drugs known as anabolic steroids that led to dismissal from competition.

"It is being caught," he wrote in a medical journal and added: "Yes, I advocate use of anabolic steroids. I prescribe them for those wishing to take them."

Millar told reporters: "Taken in the right dosage and at the right frequency under medical supervision, there are no permanent side effects from anabolic steroids."

Sports Minister John Brown denounced Millar's advocacy of the drug being prescribed for athletes in training.

"It is axiomatic that I and the government find the use of anabolic steroids in any form in sport totally unacceptable," he told parliament.

The government would welcome what he called a "dramatic alteration" in Millar's position as team doctor accompanying 320 Australian athletes to the Commonwealth Games which start in Edinburgh on July 24.

Top National Olympic officials, including Phil Coles, one of Australia's two International Olympic Committee (IOC) representatives, condemned any sports doctor's advocacy of the use of a banned drug.

"Dr. Millar's position must be untenable," Coles said.

The Australian Commonwealth Games Association is to decide on Millar's position when it meets on Friday, according to secretary-treasurer Arthur Tunstall.

But Millar, who heads a sports medicine institute in Sydney, was unrepentant.

"It would be much better if nobody took anabolic steroids but there are hundreds of people taking them in this country," he told reporters.

"There are body-builders using steroids and kids in other sports such as rugby league and rugby union," he added.

Millar acknowledged in his article the world-wide sports ban on steroids but insisted they were not harmful if taken under supervision and said athletes do and would continue to use them.

Evert recovers form to reach semis

BOCA RATON, Florida (R) — Top seed Chris Evert Lloyd, unhappy with her recent performance, was back in top form Tuesday as she overcame unseeded American Terry Phelps to reach the semifinals of the \$1.8 million International Players Tennis Championships.

Lloyd beat Phelps 6-2, 6-0 to end the women's quarterfinals round on a rainy day that produced long delays.

Also reaching the semifinals were 16-year-old second seed Steffi Graf of West Germany, seventh seed Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia and ninth-seeded American Kathy Rinaldi.

"It's the second week of the tournament," Lloyd said. "I played disappointing tennis the first week. But I know I have to play better from now on."

Phelps, who gave Lloyd a tough fight in the French Open quarterfinals, was overmatched. "I felt she was toying with me, hitting to the corners. I got frustrated."

Graf advanced against sixth seed Zina Garrison of the U.S. 6-2, 6-7 (3-7), 6-3. Sukova beat American Barbara Potter 6-1, 6-2 and Rinaldi eliminated 12th seed Carling Bassett of Canada 7-6 (7-5), 6-2.

Graf's victory avenged a defeat to Garrison in their only previous meeting.

"I'm so happy to win the match," said Graf, who lost to Garrison in three sets during the WTA Championships last year. Tuesday, after squandering a

5-3 lead in the second set, the West German overcame the tiring American by winning the last four games of the final set.

Graf wasted two match points in the 10th game of the second set but relied on superior stamina to outlast her 22-year-old opponent, who won only six points during the last four games.

Garrison said the rain delays affected her play.

"I was frustrated in the first set," Garrison said. "The schedule was changed because of the rain delay and when we started, it rained again with me leading 40-30 in the third game. After another long delay we went back and they called a foot fault on my second serve on the first point. I never hit the ball good again after that."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Liverpool finally stops York, 3-1

LONDON (R) — English Football Association (F.A.) Cup favorites Liverpool needed extra time to beat Third Division York 3-1 in their fifth round replay at Anfield Tuesday night. Goals from Danish international Jan Molby and player-manager Kenny Dalglish early in the extra period clinched a home quarter-final tie against Watford or Bury. John Wark shot Liverpool ahead in the 19th minute but Tony Canham hit York's equaliser seconds before halftime with a shot which escaped goalkeeper Bruce Grobelaar. Solid defence from York kept the home side at bay until Molby thumped home a left-footer in the 94th minute. Four minutes later Dalglish scored from a Sammy Lee Pass.

New Zealand and Soviet teams draw 1-1

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — The New Zealand soccer team drew 1-1 with a Soviet Union league Select XI Wednesday. New Zealand scored first through center half Malcolm Dunford in the 27th minute. The Soviet equaliser was scored by Evgeny Kuznetsov shortly after halftime. The Soviet side won the first of the five-match series 1-0 at Auckland on Monday. The third match will be played Friday at Christchurch.

Groin injury could end Horst Hrubesch's career

DORTMUND, West Germany (AP) — Horst Hrubesch, West Germany's former international soccer striker who led Hamburger SV to the European Champions' Cup in 1983, has apparently ended his career following a groin injury, officials of his club said Wednesday.

Hrubesch, 34, earned 21 international caps. He scored 135 goals in 224 Bundesliga games and led Hamburger SV to three national championships between 1978 and 1983. He played in the 1983 European Champions' Cup final in Athens when Hamburg defeated Italy's Juventus 1-0 to win the most prestigious European club title.

Hrubesch then joined Standard Liege of Belgium before returning to West Germany at the start of this season to help struggling Dortmund.

His return was plagued by a series of injuries and he scored only two goals, one of them an own goal.

Bundesliga but I must think about my health and my future," Hrubesch told the mass-circulation newspaper Bild.

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His return was plagued by a series of injuries and he scored only two goals, one of them an own goal.

Formula One teams set for 1986

By Derek Parr
Reuter

PARIS — Niki Lauda's August announcement that the 1985 season would be his last in Formula One has provoked a major driver reshuffle in Grand Prix motor racing.

With the 1986 campaign about to start in Brazil next month, every major team has now finalised line-ups. All that is awaited is final, formal approval from the governing International Motor Sport Federation.

Lauda, three times world champion, triggered off the annual round of transfers by quitting McLaren, the dominant force in Grand Prix racing for the last two years.

Finland's Keke Rosberg, world champion in 1982, switched from Williams to fill the vacancy and join 1985 champion Alain Prost of France in defence of the Constructors' title McLaren have won for the past two years.

Williams, in turn, engaged twice title-winner Nelson Piquet of Brazil at great expense. He teams up with Briton Nigel Mansell, whose two stirring wins late last year indicated McLaren would face a tough challenge this season.

Piquet's move left a gap at Brabham. But Lauda, who retired once only to return, denied he had accepted a \$6 million offer to break his new retirement pledge and fill it.

Instead, Brabham signed up Italian Elmo De Angelis and Riccardo Patrese, the former from Lotus and the latter from Alfa Romeo, who have withdrawn this season.

Lotus, in their search for a replacement for the stylish De Angelis, were widely expected to engage experienced Derek Warwick from Renault, also out.

But team chief Peter Warr said brilliant Brazilian Ayrton Senna — in apparent single-minded pursuit of the world title — had

chosen to leave if Warwick or any other established Grand Prix driver were signed. The job has gone instead to Scottish aristocrat Johnny Dumfries, once a van driver for Williams. Warwick was unable to find himself a place elsewhere.

The exit of Renault has left Ligier as lone French standard-bearer. Jacques Laffite, at 42 the oldest driver on the circuit, will be joined this year by similarly experienced Rene Arnoux, discarded early last season by Ferrari but recalled by Ligier in preference to younger French compatriots Philippe Streiff and Philippe Alliot.

Italian giants Ferrari, winners of the Constructors' title a record seven times, are the only major unchanged team in 1986, pinning their hopes once again on Italian Michele Alboreto. Prost's main

challenger last year, and Sweden's Stefan Johansson.

Renault ex-ile Patrick Tambay has joined Australia's 1980 world champion Alan Jones at Lola, who made their Grand Prix debut midway through last season and are entering two cars for the first time.

Christian Danner, last season's Formula 3,000 European champion, moves alongside Italian Ivan Capelli at Osella, while American Eddie Cheever partners Britain's Martin Brundle at Tyrrell. Italy's Teo Fabi and Austria's Gerhard Berger are to line up at Toleman, while Italian Andrea De Cesaris, dropped by Ligier following accidents last season, is to drive for Minardi.

Swiss Marc Surer, formerly with Brabham, joins Belgian Thierry Boutsen at Arrows.

Sapporo's Winter Asian Games could be a flop

TOKYO (AP) — The first Winter Asian Games open in Sapporo March 1 short of money, athletes and audience.

Only eight of the 36 invited nations or regions are sending athletes to Sapporo, the site of the 1972 Winter Olympics. And, as of the end of January, only half of the tickets were sold to the one-week event with the slogan "Asian Friends, Shining in the Snow and Ice of Sapporo."

In all, 305 athletes are to compete in skiing, ice skating, ice hockey and biathlon, but only China and host Japan are fielding athletes in all 35 events.

The list of entrants shows that most Asians decided to stay in their tropical climates rather than venture to Japan's frigid northern island of Hokkaido to compete in unfamiliar winter sports.

Japan is sending 92 athletes and China 63, followed by South Korea with 65 and North Korea with 51. India is sending 14, Iran 12 and Hong Kong and Mongolia are both fielding four each.

Organisers say they are about \$549,000 short of the planned \$3.29 million budget.

Hidalgo to manage Marseilles

PARIS (R) — Michel Hidalgo, who made France champions of Europe, Wednesday embarked on a new soccer adventure when his partner Bernard Tapie signed an accord which will take them both to First Division Olympique Marseilles.

Millionaire entrepreneur Tapie and Marseilles club president Jean Carriat signed an agreement which will ensure Tapie's group A controlling interest on the board.

The board signed their commitment to the terms after Tapie and Hidalgo had threatened to pull out of the project if no immediate action was taken following

an inconclusive month of deliberations.

Hidalgo, whose eight-year reign as French team chief was crowned by the European championship win in 1984, quit his subsequent administrative job as National Technical Director, to join Tapie after turning down numerous offers at home and abroad.

Hidalgo, who will be in full charge next season, said the immediate aim was to keep Marseilles in the First Division where they are currently 14th out of 20 and then to turn them into a club with international ambitions.

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THE Daily Crossword by Diane C. Baldwin
ACROSS
1 G-men
5 Flightless
10 Wump's cousin
14 Medicinal plant
15 Hot drink
16 Sit
17 Grassy spot
18 Mingles
20 — of Cleave
21 Caprice or g.
22 Gentleman: abbr.
23 Cenzo
25 Yokum
26 originator
26 Can. city
28 No-hitters
32 White House monogram
33 Foy or Albert
35 Golf's Palmer
36 Fashion name
38 Impetuously longing
40 Heb. month
41 Annoying one
43 — mile limit
45 Work unit
46 Raissa
48 Ancient Gr. assemblies
50 Wild explosive
51 Trudges
52 Reddish-brown
55 Himmelian fare
56 Engrave
58 Pattern type
61 Deal
62 Before: prel.
63 Dark
64 Worry over
65 Bamboo is one
68 Fountain
69 Long time
DOWN
1 FOR's dog
2 Verve
3 Baton maneuver
4 Incoherent
5 Plaudits
5 Natives' river
7 Farm plot
8 Mythical bird
9 Afr. tribe member
10 Scattering migration
11 Decays
12 Roman road
13 Soccer move
18 Gr. money
24 Fearful reverence
25 Good tidings
26 On — go all out
27 Spin
28 Yearning sound
29 Play down
30 Debutante's crown
31 Suitable material?
34 Went out with
37 Switched around
38 Down-to-earth thinkers
42 Trades
44 Salt
47 Powder stuff
49 Black Sea
50 Survey
51 Assassin
52 Clastic
53 Alconon's department
54 Formal procedure
55 Survey
57 Nile queen
58 For short
59 Aged
60 Genetic letters

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PLACES IN THE HEART (Colour)
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:15

Cinema RAGHADAN
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THE LOST EMPIRE (Colour)
Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 8:00

Cinema OPERA
Abbas, Jaber, Makhadmeh
Tel: 675573
THE GIRLS AND THE UNKNOWN (Colour)
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.4455/65	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3953/58	Canadian dollars
	2.3105/15	West German marks
	2.6090/6100	Dutch guilders
	1.9110/20	Swiss francs
	47.03/55	Belgian francs
	7.0925/75	French francs
	1572/1573	Italian lire
	178.80/90	Japanese yen
	7.3370/3420	Swedish crowns
	7.2175/2225	Norwegian crowns
	8.5225/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	342.25/342.75	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed mixed with a slightly firmer bias, after a higher start. At 1530 GMT, the FTSE 100 index was 0.6 down at 1,491.3 after touching a record 1501.1.

Share prices firmed initially following Tuesday's gains after better than expected January PSBR repayment figures prompted fresh hopes of possible tax cuts in next month's budget. Firmer Sterling, slightly easier U.K. money market rates and Wall Street's record close provided additional support but the higher levels attracted some profit-taking, while the underlying tone remained firm, dealers said.

Government bonds closed narrowly mixed. Golds firmed.

Emir of Bahrain inaugurates largest Gulf aluminium plant

MANAMA (AP) — The emir of Bahrain on Wednesday inaugurated a \$100 million aluminium rolling plant, with output to be marketed in the United States, Europe and Asia.

The mill at the Sitra Island industrial complex was to operate at an initial annual capacity of 40,000 tons, which stood to be doubled later.

The mill is jointly owned 20 per cent each by Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Iraq and Kuwait, and 10 per cent each by Qatar and Oman.

The Gulf Aluminium Rolling Mill Co. (GARMCO) had awarded the construction contract to Kobe Steel of Japan, and the project management and consultancy services contract to the U.S. firm Kaiser Engineers and Constructors Inc. of Oakland, California.

The metal for the GARMCO mill will be supplied by Bahrain's Alba Aluminium Smelter, located less than 10 kilometres away.

Apart from a small-scale rolling mill in Iraq, GARMCO expects to cover the needs of the Gulf aluminium market, estimated at 90,000 tons by 1990, according to company officials.

Bahrain's Development and Industry Minister Youssef Shirawi

in an opening address said: "This is more than an aluminium plant... this project crystallises the Arab industrial trend to meet local demand with Arab manufacture and to export the surplus, just as the industrialised countries are doing."

"Regional cooperation has been channelled in this project to give it competitive strength in the face of the industrialised world... it will meet the requirements of 25 million consumers in the Gulf Cooperation Council member states and Iraq," Sheikh Shirawi said.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Bahrain. The six countries along with neighbouring Iraq are members of the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting.

GARMCO was the first major project promoted by this organisation since its inception in recent years.

GARMCO board chairman, Sheikh Ahmad Al Manai, said in his address that the governments of the other Gulf Arab states have pledged not to sanction any competitive aluminium projects "for the coming five years."

Two British companies face penalties over Saudi contracts

RIYADH (R) — Two of Britain's largest contracting firms, John Laing and Sons and George Wimpey, face penalties for failing to properly complete three hospital contracts in Saudi Arabia, the daily Arab News said Wednesday.

It quoted health ministry projects director, Sheikh Muhammad Al Guwaidh as saying Saudi Arabia would call a performance bond of more than 20 million riyals (\$5.5 million) on the projects, which cost a total of 280 million riyals (\$76.7 million).

Performance bonds are financial guarantees, often obligatory under such contracts, which can be forfeited in the event of a dispute over the contract.

The two firms, joint venture partners with Al Haji Abdullah Ali Riza Company of Jeddah, said last November they were pulling out of Saudi Arabia, alleging non-payment for work completed.

Sheikh Guwaidh said the contracts had been paid, but added: "Now we find that quite a number of wards are not ready... some others have not been executed according to specifications."

Laing Wimpey Ali Riza Company have carried out hospital projects in Saudi Arabia worth 580 million riyals (\$160 million) over the past five years, the newspaper added.

Singapore seeks to become Asia's Switzerland of banking

SINGAPORE (R) — Singapore must strive to become Asia's Switzerland of banking by increasing and widening money market activity, a key report to the government said Tuesday.

The report, compiled by a committee under the trade minister, Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, is expected to form the basis for new economic policies designed to pull the country out of a severe economic recession.

The 300-page report is being issued piecemeal and the latest recommendations cover suggestions for improving business activity in various service sectors.

The report said growth of Singapore's banking faltered recently because of the growing importance of Japan where banking laws have been liberalised.

"As a financial centre Singapore is now at a crossroads," the report said. Over the next 10

years it should aim to develop into a premier financial centre.

It must strive to become the Switzerland of Asia for risk management, fund management and capital markets.

The report called on the government to meet more of its own money needs locally using various new financial instruments.

It also suggests enlarging the Singapore International Monetary Exchange, a market which handles dealing in promises to supply parcels of money at future dates.

The market could be extended to deliveries of commodities and shares, the report suggests.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore, the country's central bank, could play its part by doing more of its business at home in currencies like the U.S. dollar, West German mark and sterling, rather than in foreign markets.

Kuwaiti minister warns of oil price plunging to \$5 a barrel

MANAMA (AP) — Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Khalifa Al Sabah warned Wednesday that oil prices could dip as low as \$5 a barrel if Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-OPEC oil producers "continued to defend only individual interests."

He confirmed that the 13-nation oil cartel was planning an emergency session March 15 or 16 in Geneva to develop a combined OPEC position in the face of the "deteriorating" world oil market situation.

Sheikh Ali told the Associated Press that there was still a chance for arresting the downside in world oil prices "if OPEC and non-OPEC producers wake up to the dangerous situation that they are facing."

"But if each (oil-producing country) continued to think it can improve its position by defending only its own interests, then no doubt the prices will keep on dropping," he said.

Asked if he still held to his pessimistic assessment that these prices would drop to as low as \$10 a barrel, Sheikh Ali commented: "I was not being pessimistic. But if the situation does not change, the prices could drop to even \$5 a barrel."

Sheikh Ali's statement was made while crude oil prices, continuing the downturn that started last month, plunged below \$15 a barrel for the first time in seven years on the world market.

The price per barrel of benchmark crude oil, as set by OPEC since the beginning of 1983, was \$28.

Sheikh Ali said that "alternatives" for dealing with the situation were put forward at the OPEC conference in Vienna earlier this month but that no decisions were taken.

The conference was attended by Sheikh Ali along with the oil ministers of the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Iraq and Venezuela to discuss means of redressing the cartel's shrinking share of the oil market.

Confirming the reports that the cartel planned a full-scale ministerial emergency session next month, Sheikh Ali said "the meeting will take place in Geneva on March 15 or 16, but no agenda has been prepared as yet."

He added that discussions will basically focus on two topics: A commissioned study of production in each OPEC member state, and cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC producers.

Earlier the hard-line minority within OPEC called for an urgent ministerial conference of all oil exporting countries, including those which do not belong to OPEC.

The oil and foreign ministers of Algeria, Libya and Iran ended a two-day emergency meeting on the current oil slump with a statement denouncing OPEC members — without naming them — which it said contributed to the crisis by ignoring OPEC decisions.

The ministers' communiqué said "in view of the seriousness of the situation, and in order to take adequate measures to stabilise the oil market through adequate consultations, the three countries

urge other oil exporters to convene an urgent ministerial meeting to achieve this objective."

The non-OPEC oil exporters, including Britain, Norway and Mexico, have consistently refused to coordinate their oil policies with OPEC. The communiqué addressed to the non-OPEC exporters "an urgent appeal to join OPEC efforts and share with the OPEC members the responsibility for restoring the stability of the oil market... whose present decline threatens their economies."

The communiqué said the collapse of prices was not caused by market forces, but by "a planned strategy aimed at attacking the achievements of the exporting countries and reducing the revenues they need for their economic and social development."

This strategy, the communiqué added, "also seeks to deprive the nations of the Third World of their sovereign rights to their natural resources."

It demanded that all OPEC members should return to strict respect for all earlier decisions by the organisation which aimed at stabilising the oil market and safeguarding oil exporters' revenues.

"The only means to protect the supreme interests of the oil exporting countries consists of defending the price and purchasing power of petroleum," the communiqué said.

Iraq to sell 'netback' crude to Turkey

Meanwhile, Iraq will sell Turkey four million tonnes of crude oil this year on a "netback" basis, pricing it in line with world prices, minister of state, Mr. Kazim Okşay said Wednesday.

The deal replaces a fixed-price arrangement and follows Turkey's demand for talks as a result of the latest fall in world prices. Discussions continue with Iran, Libya and Algeria, he said in a statement.

Saudi Arabia agreed in principle last week to sell its oil to Turkey on a netback basis. In the first 11 months of 1985 Turkey's main oil suppliers were Iran, which sold 5.6 million tonnes, Iraq with 4.8 million and Libya with 2.4 million.

Subarto plans to discuss oil price with Reagan

In Jakarta, it was announced that Indonesia's President Suharto will discuss the recent slide in world oil prices with President Reagan when they meet on the holiday island of Bali in April.

Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja told reporters Wednesday that President Suharto would emphasise the negative effects of falling world oil prices with Mr. Reagan, who will go on to the meeting of seven industrialised nations in Tokyo in May.

The fall in oil prices would be high on the agenda for the Tokyo summit, said Mr. Mochtar, who has just returned from Washington after discussing Mr. Reagan's visit to Indonesia from April 29 to May 2 with White House officials.

Oil and gas earn about 70 per cent of Indonesia's foreign exchange. President Suharto has cut development spending by over 20 per cent in the financial year starting April 1 in anticipation of lower oil prices but top officials say the budget may be slashed again if the situation does not improve.

Dollar falls sharply in nervous trading

LONDON (R) — The dollar took a dive on European foreign exchange Wednesday, reaching a 2.3105-mark fix in Frankfurt and trading more than three pence below Tuesday night's close at its lowest since late May 1982.

Its skid in nervous trading followed Tuesday's fall through the 180-yen resistance level in New York, after comments by U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker suggesting that the administration would welcome a further decline in its value to reduce the American trade deficit.

Mr. Baker told the Senate Budget Committee that the greenback's 32 per cent fall against the mark and 29.8 per cent loss

against the yen since this time last year were "good news for U.S. industry and agriculture."

But dealers in London said they expected Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, in congressional testimony on the outlook for interest rates Thursday, would help talk up the currency from its sharp downward spiral, though it still looked vulnerable.

Japan's attitude will be a key factor in shaping developments, and Wednesday conflicting statements in Tokyo on the authorities' intentions on interest rates confused prospects for the yen, which is still strengthening against the dollar.

Tokyo faces the choice of aiding domestic industry by reining in the yen, or bowing to pressure from trade partners by letting the dollar fall further.

The governor of the Bank of Japan said the bank was not considering a discount rate cut for the time being, but both the finance minister and trade minister indicated that they thought the time was ripe for a lower rate.

In London, the dollar traded at 178.85 yen, near its Tokyo finish after Tuesday night's European close of 180 yen, and its sharp slide eased at mid-session after a hectic morning as traders awaited Mr. Volcker's testimony.

Dealers said they had been surprised at the currency's sudden drop, but said the thinness of the New York market had probably exaggerated the movement.

One London operator said he would have expected the Federal Reserve to intervene instead of allowing the dollar to slip below significant resistance levels against most major currencies, psychologically reinforcing the slump.

"It wouldn't have cost too much to flatten out some of the movements," he said.

Sterling continued Tuesday's abrupt rally, showing how overnight it had been previously, dealers said. It traded at \$1.4450 after closing Tuesday night at \$1.4295, assisted by the dollar's weakness and stable European oil prices.

Marcos advisers quit, many charge fraud

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos' private economic advisers have quit, and many of them said they were resigning because of fraud and violence in the Feb. 7 elections.

Although the government said the moves were a courtesy resignation, many advisers said they quit because fraud and violence in the polls had wrecked the basis for cooperation between the government and the private sector.

One member, who did not want to be named, told Reuters: "Mine was certainly not a courtesy resignation. It was a protest move against the government's handling of the election."

Marcos created the council in 1984 to help the government formulate economic policies. Its members include some business leaders who are vocal critics of government policies.

Mr. Felix Maramba, former president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce, said: "I resigned even before they brought up the issue of a courtesy resignation."

I don't believe in the council any more. I think it has become irrelevant."

"I have lost confidence in the government," another member said.

One dealer said there was some panic among investors who were switching to dollars from pesos.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



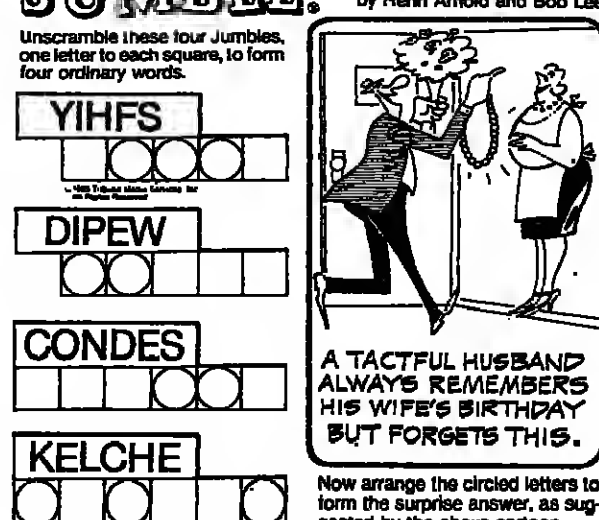
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Yesterday's Jumbles: WAKEN OFTEN COBALT BUSILY
Answer: What kind of insurance policy should a skier take out? — A "SNOW-FAULTY" ONE

Churchmen urge rejection of Pretoria debt proposals

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's three leading anti-government churchmen Wednesday issued a strong appeal to overseas banks to reject Pretoria's proposals for ending a foreign debt crisis sparked by bloody racial strife.

The call by Nobel Peace laureate Bishop Desmond Tutu, Allan Boesak and Beyers Naude, was made public on the eve of a crucial meeting in London between South Africa and creditor banks.

Pretoria froze capital loan repayment of \$14 billion in September after mass black unrest created panic among creditors over the country's political future.

The three anti-apartheid campaigners made their appeal in a letter dated Feb. 8 to Fritz Leutwiler, a Swiss mediator appointed to seek a way out of the crisis.

As protests continued overnight in South Africa, medical teams flying Red Cross flags moved into Alexandra black township to treat casualties of four days of bloody protests in which at least 19 people died, medical sources said.

The letter said that "rescheduling of South Africa's debt should be made conditional upon the resignation of the present (white-dominated) regime and its replacement by a government responsive to the needs of all South Africa's people."

The three, at the forefront of the fight against white minority domination, said that "Dr. Leutwiler's proposals are reportedly

based upon unsubstantiated assurances of (apartheid) reform.

"We therefore call upon the banks involved in the rescheduling negotiations to reject the proposals. In addition, we also request the banks to provide substance to such rejection in order to prevent further governmental stalling tactics."

"We propose that the banks should immediately 'freeze' all South African banks' balances in their books and refuse to effect any transfer instructions over these accounts."

It added: "We also suggest that the banks should obtain court attachment of aircraft, ships and other South African assets, and apply the proceeds against South African indebtedness."

The letter, published after widespread unrest erupted anew across the nation over the past week, was bound to anger Pretoria, which has pinned much hope on a rescheduling pact to revive a recession-hit economy.

The three activists said they had received no response from Leutwiler to the letter, which concluded: "We trust that the banking community in the United States will concur that the crisis now confronting South Africa is a dir-

ect result of the government's political, financial and economic policies, and is proving destructive of their business interests."

Alexandra township near Johannesburg's affluent whites-only northern suburbs was reported quiet Wednesday following the mass protests.

Medical teams spent three hours in Alexandra Tuesday night, caring for wounded residents too scared to seek help in official clinics for fear of police action, medical sources said.

They said they feared the number of people injured in the fierce clashes was much higher than the 37 announced by the government. They said casualties risked having limbs amputated if wounds were not treated.

Bishop Desmond Tutu pleaded with the Alexandra crowd of thousands not to protest after three days of disturbances. The black township was quiet Wednesday.

Police refused to confirm residents' report that policemen and soldiers breaking their way into Alexandra homes at about 2 in the morning hauled away hundreds of black activists.

The residents said the detainees all appeared to be members or supporters of the Azanian People's Organisation, AZAPO.

There were no indications that AZAPO was behind the unrest, which appeared to be a straight confrontation between police and army on one side and Alexandra residents on the other.

Angolan rebels to get U.S. weapons

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration has said it had decided to provide military aid to Angolan rebels and that the "process is in motion" to do so before an expected Angolan government offensive in the spring.

"Certain decisions have been made to provide both moral and material assistance" to rebels fighting Angola's Marxist government, Chester Crocker, the administration's top African affairs official, told a congressional hearing.

"The decision has been made and the process is in motion," Mr. Crocker said in response to persistent questioning from members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Sen. Jesse Helms pressed Mr. Crocker on whether the aid would "include weapons which are effective against the main threat to (Angolan) freedom fighters — I mean Soviet tanks, helicopter gunships."

"Will this aid include the weapons that they really need to win?" Sen. Helms asked.

Mr. Crocker, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, replied: "We want to be effective and that obviously covers the ground you have covered in your question."

The Reagan administration previously had said only that it wanted to provide "effective" support for rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

President Reagan last year said he was leaning towards a program of covert aid to UNITA rebels led by Jonas Savimbi, who visited Washington earlier this month and was lauded by Mr. Reagan as an anti-Communist "freedom fighter."

According to congressional sources, the administration already has notified congressional intelligence committees of its intention to provide \$15 million of military aid to UNITA, channeled through the CIA.

These initial funds do not need congressional approval, but funding any further CIA operation could be blocked by Congress, which is divided over aiding UNITA.

Some congressmen believe UNITA, which has waged a 10-year bush war against the Marxist government of President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, should receive open U.S. military aid.

Sikh extremists kill policeman in Punjab

NEW DELHI (R) — Sikh extremists shot dead a policeman in Punjab Wednesday, increasing pressure on the moderate Sikh government of Chief Minister Sargit Singh Barnala who has vowed to stamp out violence in the state.

Police said two gunmen on a motor-scooter killed sub-inspector Des Raj, a member of the police counter espionage staff, in Gurdaspur district near the Pakistan border.

The counter espionage staff watch the movements of people who have crossed into Punjab from Pakistan where India says Sikh extremists are trained and find shelter. Islamabad has denied the charge.

The shooting was the third extremist attack since Mr. Barnala, leader of the moderate Sikh Akali Dal Party, called at a rally off 100,000 supporters on Sunday for militants to stop violence and end their occupation of the Sikhs' holiest shrine, the Golden Temple at Amritsar.

Extremists, who want a separate nation in Sikh-majority Punjab, shot dead a Hindu leader and a worker for Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party on Monday.

More than 100 people have been killed in Sikh-related violence since Mr. Barnala came to power in September after elections made possible by a peace accord signed by Akali leaders and Mr. Gandhi two months earlier.

Mr. Barnala and moderate Sikh religious leaders are locked in a bitter struggle with the student-led militants who marched into the temple on Jan. 26.

At rival rallies on Sunday the moderates vowed to regain control of the temple and the hardliners pledged not to surrender it up without a fight.

Mr. Barnala, who has been criticised for doing nothing to stop the militants from occupying and storing arms in the temple, hinted that he would use force to evict them.

The last use of force inside the temple complex to flush out extremists in June 1984 killed more than 1,000 people and outraged many of India's 14 million Sikhs.

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Tamil rebels kill 35 in Sri Lankan convoy attack

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil separatist guerrillas killed 31 civilians and four soldiers Wednesday when they ambushed a convoy being escorted out of a Sinhalese village, the Defence Ministry said.

Thirty-four other civilians were wounded in the gun and grenade attack on the convoy, a ministry spokesman said. The army was escorting the vehicles loaded with civilians from the majority Sinhalese village of Dehiwatta in eastern Trincomalee district. All the victims were Sinhalese.

The attack came as police arrested at least five suspected guerrillas in southern Sri Lanka and said they were investigating what they believed was a rebel ploy to attack targets in Colombo, anti-terrorist sources said.

The sources said the men were arrested in Colombo and surrounding areas over the past 48 hours while transporting high explosives, grenades and detonators in vehicles.

They said the police were also trying to find out if any foreign mercenaries were helping the guerrillas, who are fighting to set up a

separate state for minority Tamils in the north and east.

The sources said some foreigners were seen with guerrillas two weeks ago near the main military camp in northern Jaffna and they fled when sentries opened fire.

They said police had been placed on special alert and suspicious looking vehicles were being checked.

An Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman in New Delhi said Tuesday Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had called for an immediate political solution to the island's conflict.

He said Mr. Gandhi made the call when Sri Lanka's High Commissioner, Bernard Tikkaratne, conveyed a message from President Junius Jayewardene about his government's position on the problem.

Mr. Gandhi has offered to help to find a solution. The 50 million Tamils in the south India state of Tamil Nadu have close religious and cultural links to the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Ershad: Military wants elections

DHAKA (R) — The military has endorsed a plan to end four years of rule in Bangladesh and transfer power to a civilian government through elections by June. President Hossain Mohammad Ershad said Wednesday.

"The armed forces have already endorsed the plan for a national election by the first half of this year and transfer power to a civilian government," he told Reuters in an interview.

"They have had enough of civilian responsibilities over the last four years. They all agree that it is high time they went back to the barracks," he said.

He has already announced that a general election will be held by June. But the major opposition parties warned that they would boycott polls unless Gen. Ershad stepped down to ensure clean voting.

"I will make all efforts to see that the election is free and fair, but I cannot create a vacuum by just giving up my responsibility," he said.

But he added that he could substantially wind up his martial law apparatus by dissolving military courts and remove all political ministers from his cabinet to satisfy the opposition.

Gen. Ershad, who seized power in a military coup in 1982, denied rumours that he was under pressure from big powers to quickly restore democracy.

"I am under pressure from nobody. What I am doing is from the dictation of my conscience," he said.

Twenty-three opposition parties said earlier they had mapped out a strategy for "direct action" to oust Gen. Ershad. But they did not spell out the details.

Their programme has received support from the main student groups at Dhaka University, scene of violence over the past few months.

Opposition and pro-government parties have accused each other of supporting student groups in the campus. At least 20 students have been killed and nearly 100 injured in clashes over the past three years.

Gen. Ershad said he might impose laws to ban politics in universities if there was general agreement for such a move.

He said the Bangladesh Armed Forces were serious about restoring civilian democratic government.

"We never had the illusion that a country, born with democratic aspirations, could be ruled by the military," he said, adding: "The military had a short-term target — to get the country back on the rails of progress. We have already done it."

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Haiti announces hunt for wealth Duvalier left behind

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haiti's new government is launching a nationwide treasure hunt to find the riches that deposed dictator Jean Claude Duvalier was forced to leave behind in his hasty flight to France, Justice Minister Gerard Gourgue has announced.

Meanwhile, students who demonstrated in the streets of the capital Tuesday, forcing the closure of the city's schools, were urged to go back to their classrooms Wednesday. Col. Max Vailes, the information minister, said the military and police would "guarantee the security" of pupils returning to school.

Mr. Gourgue outlined a three-point plan for the recovery of Duvalier's assets still in Haiti. He said it involved:

— Seizure of all property and personal belongings left behind by Duvalier and his wife, Michele;

— Annulment of all financial or economic transactions or operations arranged by Duvalier in the six months before his ouster;

— Giving any companies acting as fronts for Duvalier 15 days to make a declaration or face seizure.

What would happen to companies making such a declaration was not specified.

The 34-year-old Duvalier is reported to have amassed a fortune in secret Swiss Bank accounts over the years with estimates ranging from \$200 million to \$800 million.

The family also had numerous lands and properties in Haiti including a ranch and a beach front villa north of the capital.

Two foreign residents of Haiti said Tuesday, that they had seen government trucks removing 21 "jet skis" from the ocean house which local gossip columnists have reported was sold to a Greek about six months ago.

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Navy submarines continue search for shuttle rocket

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — A rapidly growing submarine fleet continues to search for a booster rocket that may be the key evidence in the destruction of spaceship Challenger, officials say.

The Navy's NR-1, a seven-man nuclear-powered research sub, joined the sea hunt Tuesday for the right solid-fuel rocket, a prime suspect in the Jan. 28 explosion that destroyed the shuttle and killed its crew of seven.

"We certainly expect it will be of great value in helping us locate the boosters, the right booster in particular," space agency spokesman Jim Mizell said of the deep-diving navy sub.

The NR-1 can operate at depths of 720 metres and will augment the work of a civilian research submarine which reported last weekend it may have detected parts of Challenger's right booster rocket.

Current theories into the possible causes of the explosion centre on a leak of the lower segment of that booster shortly after liftoff. The leak may have allowed gases to escape, triggering the detonation of the external fuel tank.

"I think they will find some sort of physical evidence out there that will help the investigation," Mizell said Tuesday. "We expect a significant finding of some kind, hopefully soon."

The robot sub Gemini is scheduled to join the search Thursday in an area about 65 kilometres north east of the launch site. The sub will be operated from a support ship.

The ship's chief surveyor of ships, Jack Critchley, said in a statement that he had ordered lifeboats and life rafts from the Mikhail Lermontov to be examined after a naval officer Tuesday alleged some rescue equipment was "dangerously faulty."

Divers investigating salvage options said unidentified liferafts, cables, life jackets and other gear were tangled on the decks of the liner. They saw menus and bottles pushed up against the inside of state-room windows.

The ship's Wellington agents told Reuters salvage options were still being assessed. But the Malborough Harbour Board which controls the area said the vessel would eventually have to be removed.

"They can't just abandon it," board Chairman Bruno Dallessi told reporters.

The Transport Ministry, conducting the probe, said ship's documents including charts and radio logs would be tabled once they had been gathered together. The inquiry team had expected the papers Tuesday but Vorobyov did

not produce them.

Officials said the investigation is expected to go into next week.

Secrecy around the closed-door inquiry heightened Wednesday when officials blocked off the floor on which it is being held and opened back entrances to allow participants to avoid reporters.

Lawyers for the liner's officers said other key crew members would follow Vorobyov.

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